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## **Background Report Reference**

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# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Annual, Preliminary

## TALC IN 1992

The attached 2 pages, reprinted from the U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Commodity Summaries--1993, provide the earliest estimates of 1992 data and activity highlights of Talc. Most of the estimates are based on 9 months data and are compared with final data from previous years.

Footnote 4 for Talc refers to reserve base definitions published in Mineral Commodity Summaries--1993 and in U.S.G.S. Circular 831, 1980.

## TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

1. **Domestic Production and Use:** The total estimated crude ore value of 1992 domestic production was \$35 million. There were 19 talc-producing mines in 8 States in 1992. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for 96% of domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 31%; paint, 17%; paper, 16%; roofing, 11%; plastics, 6%; cosmetics, 5%; and other, 14%. Two firms in North Carolina accounted for 100% of domestic pyrophyllite production, which decreased 8% from that of 1991. Consumption was in ceramics, refractories, and insecticides, in decreasing order of tonnage.

| 2. <b>Salient Statistics—United States:</b>                              | <u>1988</u> | <u>1989</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>1991<sup>1</sup></u> | <u>1992*<sup>1</sup></u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Production, mine   | 1,234       | 1,253       | 1,267       | 1,037                   | 1,071                    |
| Sold by producers  | 1,033       | 1,145       | 1,101       | 864                     | 896                      |
| Imports for consumption  | 80          | 78          | 65          | 67                      | 59                       |
| Exports  | 260         | 319         | 238         | 178                     | 186                      |
| Shipments from Government stockpile<br>excesses                          | —           | —           | —           | —                       | ( <sup>2</sup> )         |
| Consumption, apparent  | 1,054       | 1,012       | 1,054       | 926                     | 944                      |
| Price, crude or ground, dollars<br>per ton                               | 22-358      | 28-358      | 20-325      | 11-308                  | 15-325                   |
| Stocks, producer, yearend  | 40          | 40          | 80          | 80                      | 80                       |
| Employment, mine and mill  | 847         | 886         | 880         | 880                     | 880                      |
| Net import reliance <sup>3</sup> as a percent<br>of apparent consumption | E           | E           | E           | E                       | E                        |

3. **Recycling:** Insignificant.

4. **Import Sources (1988-91):** Canada, 58%; Australia, 15%; China, 15%; and other, 12%.

| 5. <b>Tariff:</b> | <b>Item</b>              | <b>Number</b> | <b>Most favored nation (MFN)</b> | <b>Non-MFN<sup>4</sup></b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                   |                          |               | <u>1/1/93</u>                    | <u>1/1/93</u>              |
|                   | Crude, not ground        | 2526.10       | 0.04¢/kg                         | 0.6¢/kg.                   |
|                   | Ground, washed, powdered | 2526.20       | 2.4% ad val.                     | 35.0% ad val.              |
|                   | Cut or sawed             | 6815.99       | Free                             | 2.2¢/kg.                   |

6. **Depletion Allowance:** Block steatite talc: 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign). Other: 14% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign).

7. **Government Stockpile:**

**Stockpile Status—9-30-92**  
(metric tons)

| <b>Material</b>      | <b>Goal</b> | <b>Uncommitted<br/>inventory</b> | <b>Committed<br/>inventory</b> | <b>Disposals<br/>Jan.-Sept. 92</b> |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Talc, block and lump | —           | 981                              | —                              | 272                                |
| Talc, ground         | —           | 988                              | —                              | —                                  |

\*Estimated. E Net exporter.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes pyrophyllite.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

<sup>3</sup>Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

<sup>4</sup>See Appendix B.

<sup>5</sup>See Appendix A for definitions.

## TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

8. **Events, Trends, and Issues:** Production increased 3% and sales increased 4% from those of 1991. Apparent consumption increased 2% in 1992. Exports increased 5% from those of 1991. Belgium, Canada, Japan, and Mexico were the major importers of U.S. talc. Imports for consumption decreased 12% from those of 1991. Canada, China, and France supplied approximately 95% of the imported talc.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a final rule on June 8, 1992, removing the nonasbestiform varieties of actinolite, anthophyllite, and tremolite from the scope of its asbestos standard. The nonasbestiform varieties will be regulated according to limits set for "particulates not otherwise regulated."

9. **World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:**

|                            | Mine production |                   | Reserves <sup>5</sup> | Reserve base <sup>5</sup> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
|                            | 1991            | 1992 <sup>o</sup> |                       |                           |
| United States <sup>1</sup> | 1,037           | 1,071             | 136,000               | 544,000                   |
| Brazil                     | 570             | 570               | 14,000                | 54,000                    |
| China                      | 2,300           | 2,300             | Large                 | Large                     |
| India                      | 480             | 480               | 4,000                 | 9,000                     |
| Japan                      | 1,295           | 1,300             | 132,000               | 200,000                   |
| Korea, Republic of         | 840             | 840               | 14,000                | 18,000                    |
| Other countries            | <u>2,410</u>    | <u>2,400</u>      | <u>Large</u>          | <u>Large</u>              |
| World total                | 8,932           | 8,961             | Large                 | Large                     |

10. **World Resources:** The United States is self-sufficient in most grades of talc and related minerals. Domestic and world resources are estimated to be approximately five times the quantity of reserves.
11. **Substitutes:** The major substitutes for talc are clay and pyrophyllite in ceramics; calcium carbonate, diatomite, kaolin, and mica in paint; calcium carbonate and kaolin in paper; clays, feldspar, mica, silica, and wollastonite in plastics; and calcium carbonate, kaolin, and silica in rubber.

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