Nonfuel mineral production in New Mexico

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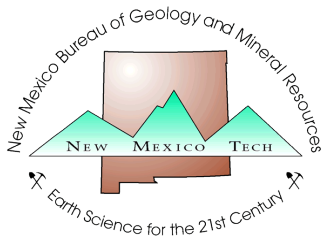

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—U.S. Bureau of Mines, Denver, CO, prepared January 16, 1981

The estimated value of New Mexico's nonfuel mineral production was $807 million in 1980. Copper and potash, the leading mineral products, provided about 82 percent of the nonfuel mineral value, followed in order by molybdenum, silver, cement, sand and gravel, perlite, and others. The increased value of potash is primarily responsible for the increase in the total value of the state's mineral production. Preliminary 1980 production figures place New Mexico as the nation's first-ranking potash producer, second as a copper producer, and fourth as a molybdenum producer.

Quintana Minerals Corp. and Philbro Mineral Enterprises, Inc. announced plans to construct a 15,000-ton-per-day flotation mill to concentrate ore from an open-pit porphyry copper ore body in the Copper Flat area, northeast of Hillsboro. Regular production, scheduled to begin in early 1982, is expected to recover about 40 million lbs of copper, 1 million lbs of molybdenum, 12,000 oz of gold, and 350,000 oz of silver in concentrates per year for a period of 12–15 yrs. About 250 persons will be employed. Kennecott Minerals Co. broke ground for a new 37,000-ton-per-day concentrator near their Chino mine at Santa Rita. The new $300 million copper concentrator will be 7 mi away from the present concentrator and will come on stream the second or third quarter of 1983. The project is a joint venture with Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan. Exxon Minerals Co. began development of a copper property at Pinos Altos northwest of Santa Rita. Mining permits from the Environmental Protection Agency and New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division are still required.

Ellen Hunt Flowers and Black Range Mining Corp., a subsidiary of Gold Fields Mining Corp., formed a partnership to explore the St. Cloud mineral group in the Chloride (Apache) mining district in Sierra County. The St. Cloud is on a multiple-banded quartz vein, containing copper (mostly bornite), free gold, and silver. The St. Cloud had been worked in the 1880's or 1890's, but not since.

Barite of America produced barite at an open-pit mine near Hatch and began development of an underground mine on the east side of the Florida Mountains, southeast of Deming. In the fall of 1980, the company laid off 11 people from the mine at Hatch and the mill near Deming until problems in extracting the barite from its impure ore can be solved.

NONFUEL MINERAL PRODUCTION IN NEW MEXICO, prepared by U.S. Bureau of Mines, January 1981

Mineral[1]	1979 Quantity	1979 Value (thousands)	1980/preliminary Quantity	1980/preliminary Value (thousands)
Clays[2] ..... thousand short tons	74	$124	40	$80
Copper (recoverable content of ores) .. metric tons	164,281	336,934	155,261	346,232
Gem stones	NA	180	NA	175
Gold (recoverable content of ores) .... troy ounces	22,976	7,065	11,760	7,212
Gypsum ..... thousand short tons	251	3,244	208	3,005
Lead (recoverable content of ores) .... metric tons	43	49	1	1
Manganiferous ore (5–35 percent Mn) .. short tons	33,152	W	31,148	629
Mica (scrap) ..... thousand short tons	17	W	W	W
Peat ..... do	2	40	2	44
Perlite ..... do	588	14,874	544	14,721
Potassium salts ..... thousand metric tons	2,005	228,776	2,035	314,423
Pumice ..... thousand short tons	604	3,550	542	3,898
Sand and gravel ..... do	7,141	18,245	4,900	15,500
Silver (recoverable content of ores) ..... thousand troy ounces	W	W	1,274	27,400
Stone:				
Crushed ..... thousand short tons	2,589	6,743	2,600	7,400
Dimension ..... do	20	117	17	105
Combined value of barite, carbon dioxide, cement (portland and masonry), fire clay, helium (high purity) (1980), lime, molybdenum, salt, vanadium, zinc, and items indicated by symbol W	XX	74,507	XX	65,857
Total	XX	694,448	XX	806,682

NA Not available. **W** Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included in "Combined value" figure. **XX** Not applicable.

[1]Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

[2]Excludes fire clay; value included in "Combined value" figure.