



Mining and Metallurgical Society of America

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May 15, 2020

MMSA FREE Webinar ***Evaluating Critical Mineral Commodity Supply Chains*** **August 19, 2020. 11am MDT**

To help inform the public policy dialogue about the Nation's reliance on imports of the critical minerals needed for the domestic manufacturing and technology sectors and to develop conventional and renewable energy infrastructure, the MMSA Government Committee has scheduled a Webinar for August 19, 2020, featuring Nedal Nassar of the U. S. Geological Survey. He is the principal author of the report: *Evaluating the mineral commodity supply risk of the U.S. manufacturing sector*; published in Science Advances, February 2020. Mr. Nassar will discuss the findings of the paper with a slide presentation, followed by an audience Q & A.

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased awareness that our reliance on foreign products and minerals creates serious supply chain disruptions and vulnerabilities. Trade tensions, resource nationalism, and various other factors are increasing concerns regarding the supply reliability of nonfuel mineral commodities. This is especially the case for commodities required for renewable energy technologies ranging from electric vehicles to wind turbines. In this analysis, Mr. Nassar uses a conventional risk-modeling framework to develop and apply a new methodology for assessing the supply risk to the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Specifically, supply risk is defined as the confluence of three factors: the likelihood of a foreign supply disruption, the dependency of U.S. manufacturers on foreign supplies, and the ability of U.S. manufacturers to withstand a supply disruption. The methodology is applied to 52 commodities for the decade spanning 2007–2016. The results indicate that a subset of 23 commodities, including cobalt, niobium, rare earth elements, and tungsten, pose the greatest supply risk. This supply risk is dynamic, shifting with changes in global market conditions.

Presenter: Nedal Nassar of the U. S. Geological Survey, Chief of the Materials Flow Analysis Section at the National Minerals Information Center, U.S. Geological Survey.

Biography - Employing a systems perspective, my team and I examine the global stocks and flows of nonfuel mineral commodities at each stage of their life cycle to gain a more complete understanding of their status above ground. We analyze trends and examine concerns regarding foreign mineral dependency. We develop supply and demand scenarios to better anticipate potential shortfalls. We collaborate with other USGS Mission Areas to provide a more complete understanding of the mineral supply situation. We also collaborate with and provide analysis for other federal agencies to help them achieve their missions. In short, our work provides decision makers with the information necessary to ensure that the United States has a reliable supply of mineral resources.

For more information about how this free Webinar, send an email to: contactmmsa@mmsa.net .
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