DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

[GX18LR000F60100; OMB Control Number 1028–0053]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Nonferrous Metals Surveys

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to renew an information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 17, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by mail to the USGS, Information Collections Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 159, Reston, VA 20192; or by email to *gs-info_collections@usgs.gov*. Please reference OMB Control Number 1028–0053 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Elizabeth Sangine by email at *escottsangine@usgs.gov,* or by telephone at 703–648–7720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is the collection necessary for USGS to perform its duties, including whether the information is useful; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) how to minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: Respondents to these forms supply the USGS with domestic production and consumption data for 22 ores, concentrates, and metals, some of which are considered strategic and critical to assist in determining stockpile goals. These data and derived information will be published as chapters in Minerals Yearbooks, monthly Mineral Industry Surveys, annual Mineral Commodity Summaries, and special publications, for use by Government agencies, industry, education programs, and the general public.

Title of Collection: Nonferrous Metals Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 1028–0053.

Form Number: Various (27 forms).

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Business or Other-For-Profit Institutions: U.S. nonfuel minerals producers and consumers of nonferrous metals and related materials.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 1,400.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 3,647.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: For each form, we will include an average burden time ranging from 20 minutes to 1 hour.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 2,936.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Frequency of Collection: Monthly, Quarterly, or Annually.

Total Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden Cost: There are no ''non-hour cost'' burdens associated with this IC.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number and current expiration date.

The authorities for this action are the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*), the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and the National Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 21(a)).

Michael J. Magyar,

Associate Director, National Minerals Information Center.

[FR Doc. 2018–03255 Filed 2–15–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4338–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

[178D0102DM, DS6CS00000, DLSN00000.000000, DX.6CS25]

Draft List of Critical Minerals

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals. Pursuant to Executive Order 13817 issued on December 20, 2017, ''A Federal Strategy To Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals,'' the Secretary of the Interior presents a draft list of 35 mineral commodities deemed critical under the definition provided in the Executive Order. Specifically, an analysis using multiple criteria identified 35 minerals or mineral material groups that are currently considered critical. These include: Aluminum (bauxite), antimony, arsenic, barite, beryllium, bismuth, cesium, chromium, cobalt, fluorspar, gallium, germanium, graphite (natural), hafnium, helium, indium, lithium, magnesium, manganese, niobium, platinum group metals, potash, rare earth elements group, rhenium, rubidium, scandium, strontium, tantalum, tellurium, tin, titanium, tungsten, uranium, vanadium, and zirconium. These commodities merit consideration in furthering the policy of the Federal Government to reduce the Nation's vulnerability for the security and prosperity of the United States. A summary report describing the methodologies and data sources used to develop the draft critical minerals list may be accessed at *https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20181021*. The Department of the Interior (DOI) seeks comments addressing the following topics: The make-up of the draft list and the rationale associated with potential additions or subtractions to the draft list.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted before March 19, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments online at *http://www.regulations.gov* by entering ''DOI–2018–0001'' in the Search bar and clicking ''Search,'' or by mail to Draft Critical Minerals List, MS–1621, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Nichols, (202) 208–7250, *ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov*. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact Mr. Nichols during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with this individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours. Normal business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Executive Order 13817 of December 20, 2017 (82 FR 60835, December 26, 2017), section 2(b), directs the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the heads of other relevant executive departments and agencies (agencies), to publish a list of critical minerals in the **Federal Register**.

A ''critical mineral'' as defined by the Executive Order is a mineral identified to be (i) a non-fuel mineral or mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the United States, (ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption, and (iii) that serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have significant consequences for the U.S. economy or national security.

The critical mineral screening methodology developed by the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Critical and Strategic Mineral Supply Chains (CSMSC) in 2016 and updated in 2018, served as the starting point for the development of the draft list. The screening tool was designed to identify and prioritize minerals or mineral materials for in-depth study to evaluate risks to security of supply. Additional tools and sources of information used to produce the draft critical minerals list were as follows: (i) U.S. net import reliance statistics as published annually in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mineral Commodity Summaries; (ii) USGS Professional Paper 1802 ''Critical Mineral Resources of the United States''; (iii) inputs from the Department of Defense; (iv) the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018; (v) Department of Energy/Energy Information Administration uranium statistics in the 2016 Uranium Marketing Annual Report; and (vi) the judgment of subject matter experts of the USGS and other U.S. Government agencies, including representatives of other DOI Bureaus and members of the CSMSC Subcommittee.

The draft list of critical mineral commodities has been simplified through categorization. The rare earth elements include the lanthanides and yttrium. The platinum group elements include platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, and iridium.

Several of the materials on the draft list can only be recovered cost effectively as byproducts of other more common mineral commodities which may not meet the criteria for being included on the draft list. Tellurium, for example, is a byproduct of copper refining. Rhenium is a byproduct of molybdenum processing. Despite these codependences, neither copper nor molybdenum is among the materials designated as critical.

Mineral criticality is not static, but changes over time. This analysis represents a snapshot in time that should be reviewed and updated periodically using the most recently available data in order to accurately capture rapidly evolving technological developments and the consequent material demands.

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Table 1: Draft List of critical minerals

Mineral commodity	Sectors						Top Producer	Top Supplier	Notable example application
	Aerospace (non-defense)	Defense	Energy	Telecommunications & electronics	Transportation (non-aerospace)	Other			
Aluminum	■	■	■	■	■	■	China	Canada	Aircraft, power transmission lines, lightweight alloys
Antimony		■	■	■	■	■	China	China	Lead-acid batteries
Arsenic		■	■	■		■	China	China	Microwave communications (gallium arsenide)
Barite			■	■		■	China	China	Oil and gas drilling fluid
Beryllium	■	■	■	■		■	United States	Kazakhstan	Satellite communications, beryllium metal for aerospace
Bismuth		■	■	■		■	China	China	Pharmaceuticals, lead-free solders
Cesium and rubidium	■	■	■	■		■	Canada	Canada	Medical applications, global positioning satellites, night-vision devices
Chromium	■	■	■	■	■	■	South Africa	South Africa	Jet engines (superalloys), stainless steels
Cobalt	■	■	■	■	■	■	Congo (Kinshasa)	Norway	Jet engines (superalloys), rechargeable batteries
Fluorspar			■	■		■	China	Mexico	Aluminum and steel production, uranium processing
Gallium	■	■	■	■		■	China	China	Radar, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), cellular phones
Germanium	■	■	■	■		■	China	China	Infrared devices, fiber optics
Graphite (natural)	■	■	■	■	■	■	China	China	Rechargeable batteries, body armor
Helium				■		■	United States	Qatar	Cryogenic [magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)]
Indium	■	■	■	■		■	China	Canada	Flat-panel displays (indium-tin-oxide), specialty alloys
Lithium	■	■	■	■	■	■	Australia	Chile	Rechargeable batteries, aluminum-lithium alloys for aerospace
Magnesium	■	■	■	■	■	■	China	China	Incendiary countermeasures for aerospace
Manganese	■	■	■	■	■	■	China	South Africa	Aluminum and steel production, lightweight alloys

Niobium							Brazil	Brazil	High-strength steel for defense and infrastructure
Platinum group metals							South Africa	South Africa	Catalysts, superalloys for jet engines
Potash							Canada	Canada	Agricultural fertilizer
Rare earth elements							China	China	Aerospace guidance, lasers, fiber optics
Rhenium							Chile	Chile	Jet engines (superalloys), catalysts
Scandium							China	China	Lightweight alloys, fuel cells
Strontium							Spain	Mexico	Aluminum alloys, permanent magnets, flares
Tantalum							Rwanda	China	Capacitors in cellular phones, jet engines (superalloys)
Tellurium							China	Canada	Infrared devices (night-vision), solar cells
Tin							China	Peru	Solder, flat-panel displays (indium-tin-oxide)
Titanium							China	South Africa	Jet engines (superalloys) and airframes (titanium alloys), armor
Tungsten							China	China	Cutting and drilling tools, catalysts, jet engines (superalloys)
Uranium							Kazakhstan	Canada	Nuclear applications, medical applications
Vanadium							China	South Africa	Jet engines (superalloys) and airframes (titanium alloys), high-strength steel
Zirconium and hafnium							Australia	China	Thermal barrier coating in jet engines, nuclear applications

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This draft list is based on the definition of a ''critical mineral'' provided in Executive Order 13817. The U.S. Government and other organizations may also use other definitions and rely on other criteria to identify a material or mineral as ''critical'' or otherwise important. This draft list is not intended to replace related terms and definitions of materials that are deemed strategic, critical or otherwise important (*e.g.,* National Defense Stockpile). In addition, there are many minerals not listed on the draft critical minerals list, but which are still of significant importance to the U.S. economy. Industrial minerals, for example, are the materials that form the physical basis of our nation's infrastructure. The materials for making cement, for example, limestone, clays, shales, and aggregates; materials to reinforce concrete structures such as iron and steel for rebar and steel mesh/wire grids, materials on which to place infrastructure such as base courses composed of crushed stone and aggregates. These construction commodities are the largest (by volume) sectors of the U.S. minerals industries. Other minerals include inputs into the chemical industries or agricultural sector including sulfur, salt, phosphate, and gypsum. The manufacture of products such as glass, ceramics, refractories, and abrasives require quartz, soda ash, feldspar, kaolin, ball clays, mullite and kyanite, industrial diamonds, garnets, corundum, and borates. These materials are not considered critical in the conventional sense because the U.S. largely meets its needs for these through domestic mining and processing and thus a supply disruption is considered unlikely.

Please submit written comments on this draft list by March 19, 2018 to facilitate consideration. In particular, DOI is interested in comments addressing the following topics: The make-up of the draft list and the rationale associated with potential additions or subtractions to the draft list. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: E.O. 13817, 82 FR 60835 (December 26, 2017).

Timothy R. Petty,

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Docket No. BOEM–2017–0078]

Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), Oil and Gas Lease Sale 250; MMAA104000

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision.