

SMI implements price rises

Minerals Technologies Inc. subsidiary, Specialty Minerals Inc. (SMI), has announced price rises for its ground calcium carbonate and precipitated calcium carbonate for non-paper applications, as well as talc and barytes products. The increases, which will be effective from 1 December 2006, range from 5% to 15%, and will be applied to products from all of the company's North American manufacturing facilities. SMI has stated that the price increases are needed in order to offset the rising costs associated with mining, processing, packaging, and purchased crude ore.

BRZ sells limited zeolite marketing rights

Bear River Zeolite Co. Inc. (BRZ), a wholly owned subsidiary of United States Antimony Corp. (USAC), has sold certain marketing rights for its finely ground zeolite to Steve Olson of Boise, Idaho for \$500,000 in cash. Olson has also agreed to buy 3,000 ton of the product. USAC is starting the permitting process to install a fine grinding mill with storage capacity and quality control equipment at the BRZ plant in south-east Idaho. The company requires the new equipment in order to meet its orders for finely ground zeolite, which is used as a flocculant in animal feed and pellets, waste water treatment, environmental remediation of contaminated soils, and as a replacement for Portland cement.

ICL secures Asian potash supply deals

ICL FERTILIZERS, A business segment of Tel Aviv-based multinational fertiliser and speciality chemicals company Israel Chemicals Ltd, has signed significant potash supply agreements with some of its existing customers in China and India. Each of the new contracts represents an increase in the purchase commitments made by these customers compared with earlier agreements.

ICL's major Chinese customer has agreed to buy more than 2m. tonnes of potash during the three-year period from January 2007 to December 2009. This represents a 30% volume increase when compared with the previous 3-year agreement

between the companies. Prices for these shipments will be determined at the beginning of each calendar year.

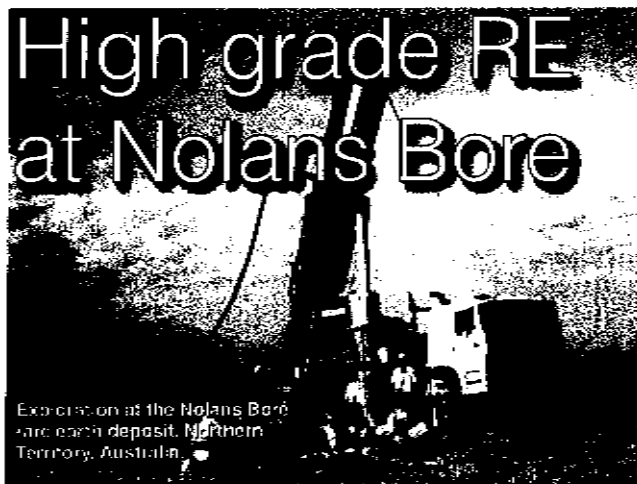
Meanwhile, ICL's two major Indian customers have agreed to purchase about 800,000 tonnes of potash during the nine-month period from August 2006 to April 2007. This compares to a total of about 900,000 tonnes shipped to India for the whole of 2005.

Asher Grinbaum, president and CEO of ICL Fertilizers said: "We are delighted to have signed these agreements with major customers in our target Far Eastern markets, a testament to our ability to deliver large shipments quickly to ports throughout Asia

Pacific and the sub-continent. The combination of these higher quantity shipments and higher prevailing prices will build our business."

ICL produces approximately 10% of the world's potash and is a highly integrated manufacturer and supplier of phosphate products. It possesses exclusive concessions to extract minerals from the Dead Sea in Israel, which is a major source of high quality, low cost potash, bromine, magnesium chloride and sodium chloride. It also mines phosphate rock from the Negev Desert in Israel.

In addition to its Israeli operations, ICL mines potash and salt from facilities in Spain and the UK.



PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA-based Arafura Resources NL's 2006 exploration programme at the Nolans Bore rare earths-phosphate-uranium project is well advanced, with the most recent drill results delivering excellent high grades.

The highest grade assay

in the current drilling programme was 6.4% REO (rare earth oxides), 27.8% P₂O₅, and 1.13 lb/T U₃O₈ returned over a five metre interval. The Nolans Bore project is located in the Northern Territory, 135km north-west of Alice Springs in the Reynolds Ranges.

Fluorapatite mineralisation (the host for rare earths, phosphate and uranium) in the South Zone, where most of the recent 2006 drilling was directed, is now known to extend over a strike length of 1,500 metres.

The 2006 drilling has been conducted on drill sections spaced at intervals of 120-200 metres. Infill drilling on 40 metres spaced sections in the future can be expected to provide a substantial boost to the already published resource at Nolans Bore, which currently stands at 18.6m. tonnes 3.1% REO, 14% P₂O₅, and 0.47 lb/T U₃O₈.

The drilling will provide the sample material from the initial mining area needed for the pilot plant metallurgical test work due to be undertaken in 2007.