

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

GERMANIUM

A. Commodity Summary

Germanium is recovered either as a minor byproduct of the refining of base metal ores, or as a constituent of coal deposits.¹ Germanium has a metallic grayish appearance and is hard and brittle. It is a semiconductor with electrical properties between those of metal and an insulator.² The Bureau of Mines estimated domestic consumption at 25,000 kilograms during 1994.³ The domestic germanium industry is composed of three germanium refineries, one each in New York, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma and a mining operation located in Tennessee.⁴ Additional information is provided on a recovery operation in Utah. Exhibit 1 presents the names and locations of the facilities involved in the production of germanium.

EXHIBIT 1

SUMMARY OF GERMANIUM PROCESSING FACILITIES

Facility Name	Location	Type of Operations
Atomergic Chem	Plainview, NY	Refining
Cabot	Revere, PA	Refining
Eagle-Picher	Quapaw, OK	Refining
Jersey Miniere	Clarksville, TN	Mining
Musto Exploration	St. George, UT	Mining and Refining

¹ Thomas O. Llewellyn, "Germanium," from Minerals Yearbook Volume 1. Metals and Minerals, 1992, p. 531.

² Ibid., p. 531.

³ Thomas O. Llewellyn, "Germanium," from Minerals Commodity Summaries, U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1995, p. 66.

⁴ Ibid.