**WHAT ARE CRITICAL MINERALS?**

Critical minerals, which include rare earth elements, are a group of lithological minerals and industrial metals that are essential for modern technology and national security. These minerals are crucial for the development and production of various technologies, including electronics, telecommunication devices, and military equipment. The United States relies heavily on imports for these minerals, making it vulnerable to potential supply disruptions.

**WHAT CRITICAL MINERALS ARE USED FOR?**

Critical minerals are essential components in a wide range of industries, driving economic growth and national security. They are used in electronics, telecommunications, and military applications. For example, rare earth elements are critical for the production of magnets used in electric vehicles and wind turbines.

**WHERE ARE CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCED AND SUPPLIED?**

Critical minerals are mined in various countries, and the United States imports a significant portion of its requirements. China is the leading producer of rare earth elements, while Russia and Brazil are major sources of cobalt.

**WHERE ARE CRITICAL MINERALS FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES?**

While the United States does not have significant deposits of critical minerals, the country is working on identifying potential sources within its borders to reduce dependence on imports.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DEVELOPING A DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF CRITICAL MINERALS?**

Developing a domestic supply of critical minerals would enhance energy security, reduce reliance on foreign sources, and support domestic industries. It would also create jobs and strengthen the nation's economy.

**HOW IS FCEM ADVANCING THIS EFFORT?**

The Federal Government, including the Department of Energy, has a strategic plan to develop a domestic critical minerals supply chain. This includes mapping the domestic critical minerals resource base, supporting research and development, and engaging with state and federal stakeholders to foster domestic production.