

MANGANESE AVAILABILITY - MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES: 1980's PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

There are 14 operations that supply 97% of the Market Economy Country (MEC) manganese and contain nearly all of its resources. Six mines account for about 70% of the production and 85% of the resources; there are no known resources that are economically close to those that are currently being mined. Costs (January 1989 dollars) of producing manganese concentrates from the operations evaluated are estimated to range from \$ 0.96 to \$ 1.86 per long ton unit (ltu or 22.4 lb) of contained manganese. Total MEC demonstrated resources evaluated amount to about 1.2 billion tons of in situ ore containing 474 million tons of manganese. Identified resources amount to about 1.8 billion tons of in situ material.

Key results of the study indicate the following:

1. The MEC supply of manganese will be from the currently mined resources well into the next century.
2. Centrally Planned Economy Countries (CPEC's) will be increasingly dependent on MEC manganese ore and concentrate in the future.
3. At the 1976 to 1987 demand increase rate, total MEC resource needed through the year 2000 would be about 282 million tons of in situ material.
4. Transportation and infrastructure support will continue to be major elements of production costs.

INTRODUCTION

This report is, in part, an update of Information Circulars IC 8978 (2) and IC 8889 (13); however, this study emphasizes more the demand and supply aspects of the commodity.

Identified resources (proven plus probable plus inferred) are shown, but evaluated quantities are limited to those that are assumed as demonstrated (proven plus probable). Further, these demonstrated resources are all of current mining grade and are within the ore bodies now being mined. Also, it is assumed that the resources evaluated would contain at least 35% Mn and would be adaptable to the production of manganese ferroalloys.