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EarthNote: Critical Minerals

Alexandria, VA – What would you do without your cell phone and computer? How about your car? Could you function in modern society without these contemporary devices? All of these technological marvels require no fewer than 60 different elements to function, and these elements come from a finite supply of mineral commodities. These critical minerals are defined by their dollar value, the availability of substitutes, and their ever increasing demand. In a new EarthNote, the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) outlines what makes a mineral “critical” and how the sudden loss of these resources could impact both the U.S. and global economy.

With increasing globalization, countries are relying on technology for economic, social, and military purposes more than ever before. Green technologies such as wind turbines and electric cars, communications technologies such as computers and cell phones, and cutting-edge military systems all depend on critical minerals to function efficiently and effectively. How would you be affected by a shortage of these commodities? Learn more in the Critical Minerals EarthNote, available online now at <http://www.agiweb.org/environment/earthnotes/note.html?PublicID=8>.

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The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.