

FILLER AND EXTENDER MINERALS IN NOVA SCOTIA

by

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ABSTRACT

A study of filler and extender minerals in Nova Scotia was initiated under the Mineral Development Agreement in the fall of 1986.

A regional market study concluded that filler minerals play an important role in Nova Scotia's economy and that some of the products used by such industries as paint producers and carpet manufacturers may be available in sufficient grade and quantity to be mined in Nova Scotia. Filler minerals are imported by Nova Scotia industries and transportation costs for these fillers are high so local consumers are very interested in an indigenous source.

The field study provided valuable information on some deposits with potential as fillers. Limestone from Glencoe and Marble Mountain, Inverness County, both tested extremely well. The Glencoe stone was ground and tested successfully as a paint filler at Tibbetts Paint Company, Trenton, Pictou County. A drilling program at Marble Mountain uncovered an even higher grade stone.

Other minerals investigated to some extent include kaolin, muscovite, barite, diatomite and silica.

This study has found that there are definite markets for local fillers and there are deposits in the Province that are acceptable grade to meet these market requirements.