

**USGS INPUT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF SECTION
1502(d)(3)(C) OF THE DODD-FRANK ACT
WORLD-WIDE CONFLICT MINERAL PROCESSING FACILITIES**

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Methodology

The USGS is the only official U.S. Government source of information on nonfuel minerals, including conflict mineral reserves, production, and usage. Upon request by Commerce, USGS prepared a listing of tantalum, tin, tungsten, and gold (3TG) mineral concentrate processing facilities.

Tantalum, tin and tungsten (3T)

In developing its list of tantalum, tin and tungsten mineral processing facilities, USGS National Minerals Information Center specialists (commodity and country) sought to identify the critical processing step(s) or the point at which ores and/or concentrates are transformed into a downstream product. Facilities identified as exclusively processing scrap or other secondary materials were excluded from the lists supplied by the USGS. The facilities included in the respective 3T lists are thought to be appropriate critical-step processing facilities, with no consideration given to the actual source of their primary feed materials.

Gold

The list of gold refiners was limited to those facilities that produce refined gold that is deliverable to various local or international exchanges. Gold ores and concentrates at both commercial-scale and artisanal mines are most often processed into intermediate semi-refined forms of gold at or near the mine site before being processed into deliverable form. Thus, the listed gold refineries may be one or several steps removed from the source of ores and concentrates, and may be using these intermediate gold products, such as gold doré or precipitates, as well as scrap as their feed materials.

Data sources

USGS specialists derived the information contained in these lists by analyzing historical records; monitoring periodic literature; reviewing company, country, and foreign government reports; reviewing commodity specific reports prepared by industry; and gathering information from conferences, field trips, and industry and Government contacts. Many of these facilities have been discussed or tabulated in the text and structure tables of the USGS's Minerals Yearbooks, specifically in the country and commodity chapters, and in special papers. The tabulated facility lists prepared for the International Trade Administration for each of the 3TG minerals were cross checked and reconciled by respective USGS country and commodity specialists.