

# FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE STATE MINERALOGIST

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**Sulfur**

Nearly all the sulfur ore mined in California during 1956 and 1957 came from the open pit Leviathan mine in Alpine County. The sulfur content (30 percent) was converted into sulfuric acid at Weed Heights, Nevada, and used to leach a low-grade copper carbonate ore from a deposit near Yerington, Nevada.

A small production of sulfur ore was made in 1957 from the Crater claims near Big Pine, Inyo County, and from the Sulfur Bank mercury mine in Lake County. The material was used as a soil additive.

By-product sulfur was produced from petroleum refineries in Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Luis Obispo Counties; by-product hydrogen sulfide from petroleum refineries in Contra Costa and Los Angeles Counties; and liquid sulfur dioxide and sulfuric acid from a lead smelter in Contra Costa County.

**Talc, Soapstone, and Pyrophyllite**

During 1956 talc, soapstone, and pyrophyllite totaling 153,710 short tons worth \$1,419,227 were produced. Production came from 17 properties in San Bernardino County, 13 properties in Inyo County, three properties in San Diego County, two in El Dorado County and one property each in Los Angeles and Mono Counties.

The material from Inyo County and from all but one property in San Bernardino County was talc; that from El Dorado and Los Angeles Counties was soapstone; and that from Mono and San Diego Counties, and from one property in San Bernardino County, was pyrophyllite.

Production during 1957 totaled 133,915 short tons valued at \$1,525,660.

The production from Inyo County and most of the production from San Bernardino County was high-grade talc. Pyrophyllite came from Mono, Plumas, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties; the soapstone came from El Dorado, Los Angeles, and Riverside Counties.

**Titanium Concentrate**

No titanium ore or concentrates were reported shipped in California during 1956 and 1957.

**Tungsten**

The tungsten ore and concentrates shipped from California mines during 1956 totaled 223,155 units of  $WO_3$  or 3,719 short tons of 60 percent  $WO_3$  valued at \$13,449,378, coming from mines in 16 counties. The 1956 output was somewhat less than that of 1955 when 262,881 units of  $WO_3$  or 4,383 short tons of 60 percent  $WO_3$  worth \$16,200,924, coming from mines in 20 counties, was reported.

Production in 1957 totaled 1,750 short tons of 60 percent  $WO_3$  valued at \$2,735,160.

The U. S. Government stockpile program for the purchase of domestic tungsten concentrates at \$63 per unit was completed in July 1956. In the same month a new program was set up under Public Law