

TECHNICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR RELEASE: May 30, 1995

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GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE STUDY RELEASED

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the Georgia Geologic Survey today announced the completion of a report summarizing all previous environmental research for the Georgia continental shelf. The report, "Assessment of Environmental Research and Nonmineral Resources Offshore Georgia," was prepared by Battelle Ocean Sciences under a contract with the Georgia Geologic Survey.

The objectives of the study were to list and summarize each publication relevant to the environmental impacts of the potential mining of phosphate and heavy minerals offshore Georgia. In addition, the contractor identified data gaps in the literature and proposed areas of future research to cover those gaps. Special emphasis was placed on the review of models which might be applicable to future environmental studies in the area. Battelle identified more than 1600 applicable references.

The assessment, funded by MMS, was conducted under the advice of the Georgia-Federal Offshore Minerals Task Force. The task force consists of state and federal scientists and is charged with assessing the mineral potential and possible environmental impacts of extracting phosphate and heavy minerals offshore Georgia.

According to Georgia State Geologist Dr. William McLemore, "Studies by the task force indicate that very large phosphate deposits are present beneath the continental shelf of Georgia and most of the deposits could be mined using current technology. Although heavy mineral deposits have not been found offshore Georgia, they have been mined along the coast from Florida to New Jersey."

The report is available from the Georgia Geologic Survey, 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.W., Atlanta, GA, 30334, (404) 656-3214. Specify Project Report number 21.

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