



PrOMMiS: Applying Novel Modeling Methods to Accelerate CM RD³

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October 11th, 2023

Carnegie Mellon West Virginia University.

Georgia





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Sandia

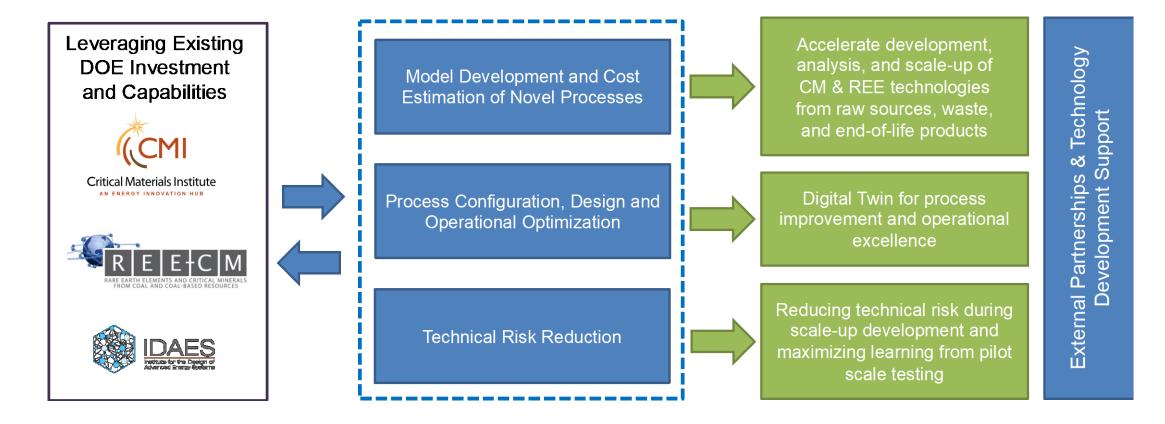
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PrOMMiS Overview

- What is PrOMMiS?
- Why is it Important?
- PrOMMiS Guiding Principles & Approach
- IDAES A Multi-Scale, Integrated Modeling Framework
- Challenges of Applying IDAES to Critical Minerals
- PrOMMiS Overview
 - Objectives
- PrOMMiS Status

PrOMMiS: Process Optimization and Modeling for Minerals Sustainability

Objective: Accelerate scale-up and deployment of innovative CM & REE processes and establish the toolkit to compress future RD3 timelines by leveraging IDAES, CCSI and a decade of DOE CM & REE investment.

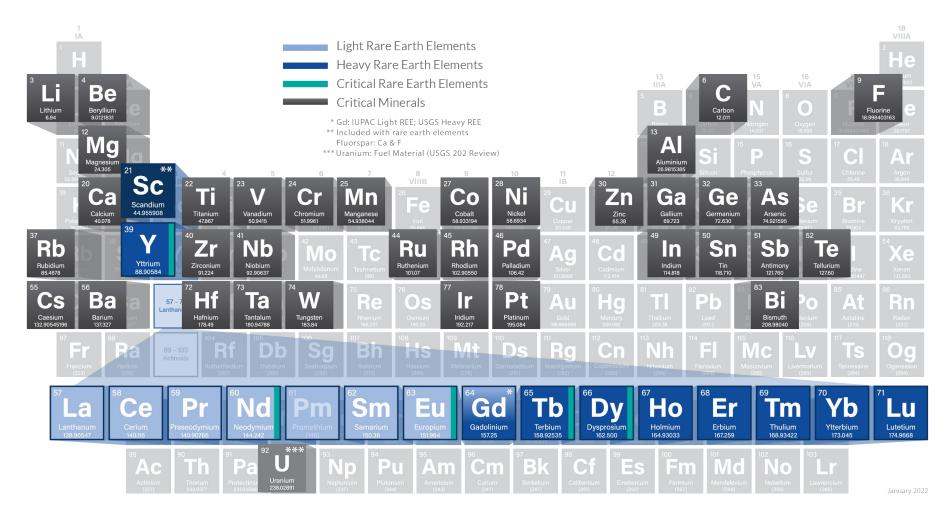


Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements (REE)

- NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Challenge: Foreign Dependance on Critical Minerals

- Import-dependent on <u>>80% of U.S. rare earth</u> <u>element (REE)</u> demand
- Import-dependent (>50% from foreign source) on >40 of 50* critical minerals
- Import-reliant (<u>100% from</u> <u>foreign source</u>) for at least <u>12 critical minerals</u>





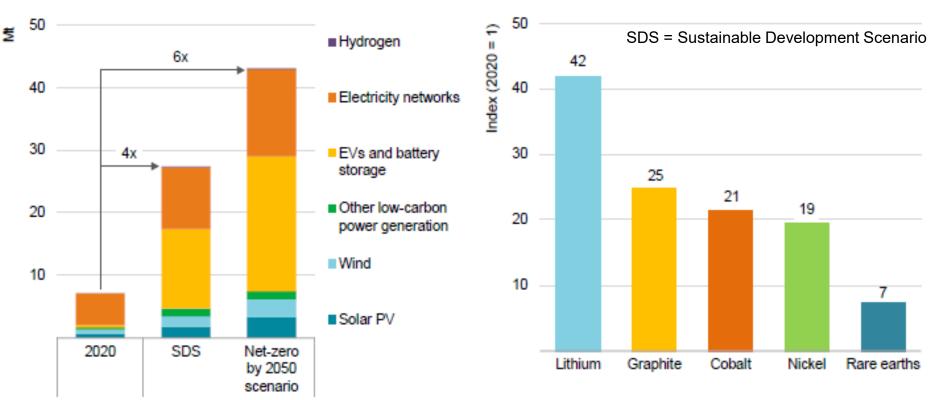
Critical Minerals – Based on Material's Risk, Supply, & Importance to Clean Energy – <u>Federal Register :: 2022 Final List of Critical Minerals</u>: A Notice by the Geological Survey on 02/24/2022 –

Critical Minerals & Rare Earth Elements (REE)

Challenge: Clean Energy Technologies Drive Demand Growth

Growth to 2040 by sector

Mineral demand for clean energy technologies by scenario



Growth of selected minerals in the SDS, 2040 relative to 2020

IEA. All rights reserved.

Notes: Mt = million tonnes. Includes all minerals in the scope of this report, but does not include steel and aluminium. See Annex for a full list of minerals.



Source: https://www.iea.org/reports/the-role-of-critical-minerals-in-clean-energy-transitions/executive-summary

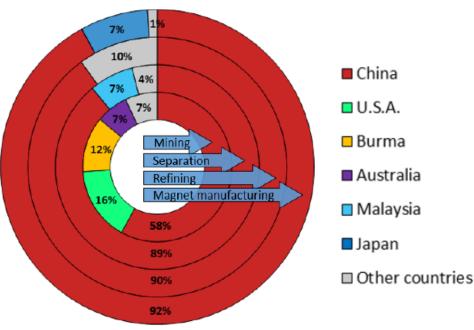
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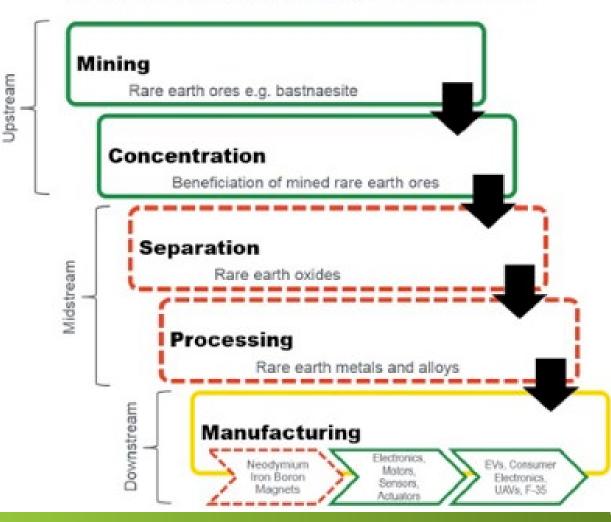
Understanding the REE Supply Chain

Challenge: Gaps in Domestic Supply Chain

- Up- and Mid-Stream capabilities concentrated in 1-3 countries
- Lack of midstream capabilities area a gap that limits growth of upstream supply & downstream manufacturing



Gaps in the domestic supply chain are shown in red.



Geographic concentration of supply chain stages for sintered NdFeB magnets



Source: DOE EERE AMO 2020

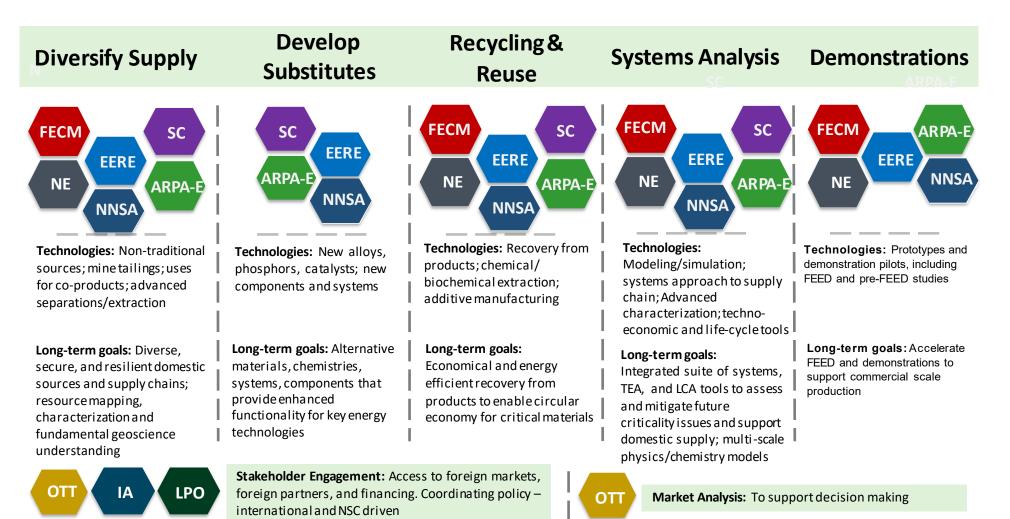
TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

DOE Critical Minerals & Materials Strategy

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

All Hands On Deck Approach, Spanning Numerous DOE Offices

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF



Pathways to Commercialization

Demonstration-Scale Facility 1-3 tonnes MREO/day – Planned*

TRL

7-8

NATIONAL

COMMERCIALIZATION

CTION

PRODU

PROCESSING

PROSPE

Technology available for wide-scale market use

DEMONSTRATION System demonstrated in operational environment

> **SYSTEM TESTING** System performance

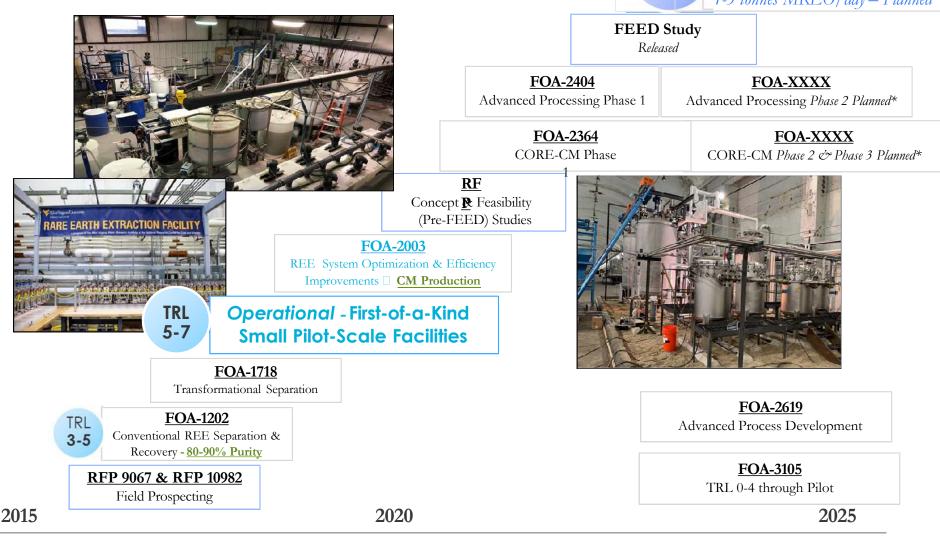
confirmed at pilot-scale

DEVELOPMENT

Technology component validated/integrated

DISCOVERY

Program Initiated 2014





Enabling Technologies -- Sensors, TEA, LCA, REE-URC

*Planned means solicitation or future phase(s) may possibly be funded via a future FOA that DOE may or may not issue.

Commercialization Pathways: Pilot Projects

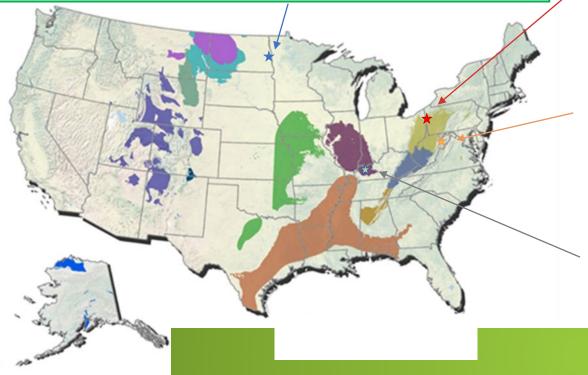


Producing High Purity MREO & CM (Co, Mn, Ni, etc.) from Coal-Based Sources



- Separating MREO concentrate from lignite
 August 2022 Pilot Facility Construction Complete
- October 2022 Pilot Facility start-up of Testing

2018	2019	2020	2021	
5 – 10 g	500 g	Under		
5 – 15% purity	30 – 85% purity	Construction		





 Small-Scale Pilot plant cumulatively produced > 1 kg mixed rare earths on an oxide basis from post combustion coal ash by 2021. Ended March 2022.

2018	2019	2020	2021
0.004 kg	.057 kg	0.41 kg	0.67 kg
≥ 10% purity	≥ 14% purity	≥ 67% purity	≥ 91% purity

West Virginia University.

Produced REE pre-concentrates from AMD and sludge materials with ${\sim}100\%$ REE recovery, 45% is HREEs

2018	2019	2020 2021					
44 95 – 999	0	Field Pilot-S Construction to 20	o start up June				



 Pilot plant operation started in Q4 FY21. Produced quantities MREOs in its *modular* pilot-scale facility from coal refuse materials

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Q1)
0.6 kg 80% purity	1.5 kg > 90% purity	0.41 kg 98% purity	0.4 kg >50% purity & 4 kg 0.5% crude cake	0.72 kg >95% REE & 0.3 kg (8% Co, 30% Ni) & 0.27 kg (22% Mn)

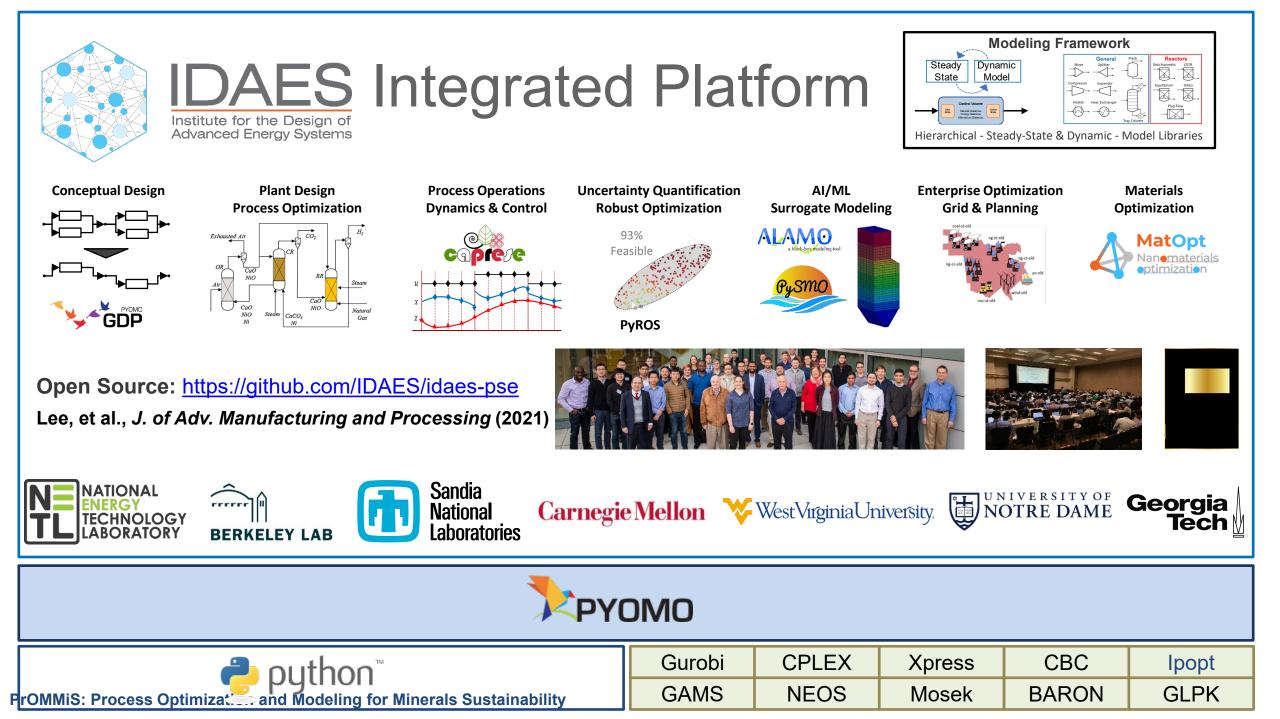
PrOMMiS: Guiding Principles & Approach

• <u>Urgency</u>: Rapidly Establish Capability to Get Early Wins

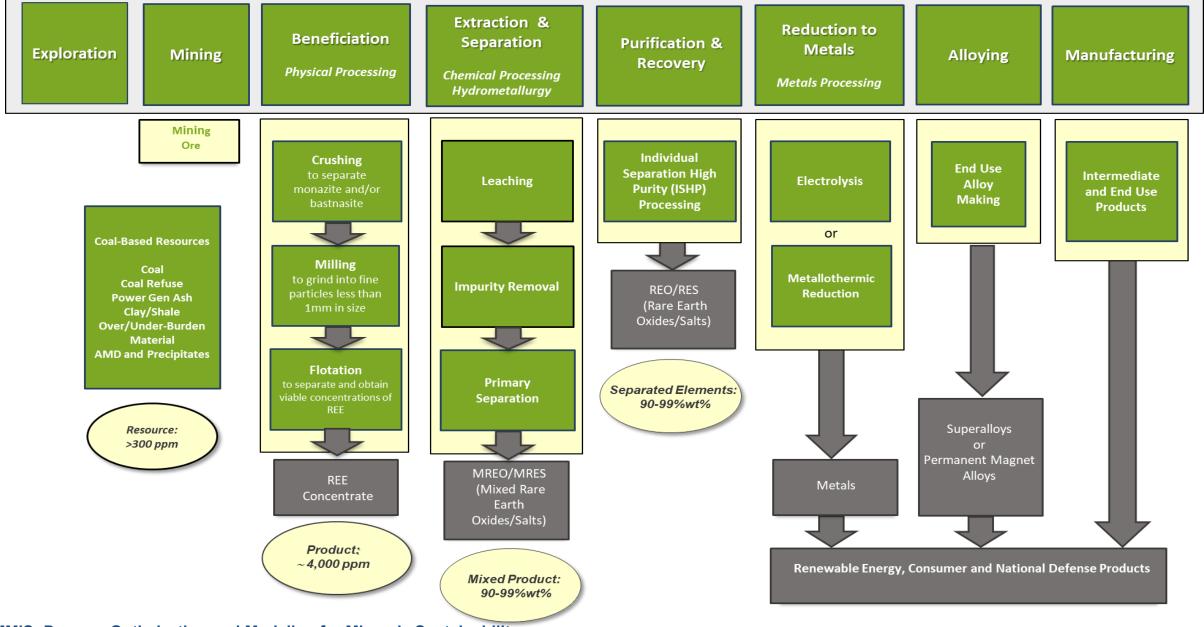
- Learn by Doing Apply to Existing Projects (recently completed or underway)
- Don't Reinvent the Wheel Leverage Existing Models & Partnerships
- Partner with Active Developers

Create A Long-Term Capability!

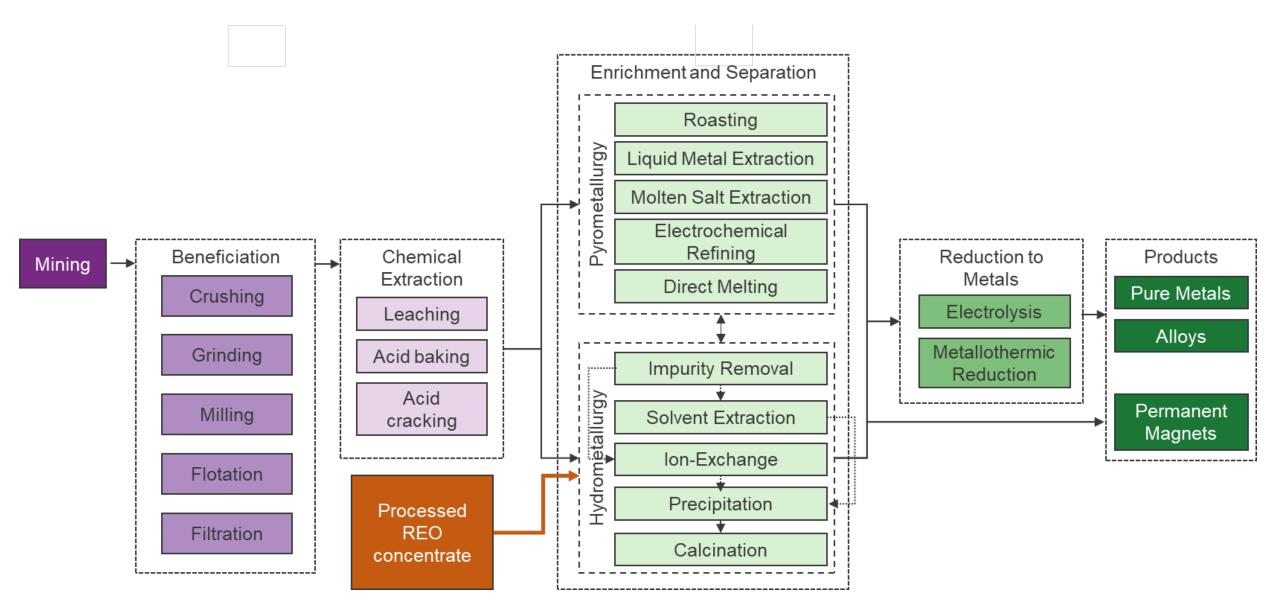
- Critical Materials will change over time
- Flexible, Foundational Platform
- Early Stakeholder Involvement and Well-Regarded Leadership Board
- Maximize Support & Integration with CM and other DOE R&D Portfolios
 - <u>CM Related</u>: CMC, CMI, BIL Activities, FECM Awarded Projects
 - <u>Adjacent</u>: Water-related (NAWI, PARETO, WaterTAP)
 - Inter-Agency: DoD Projects, USGS



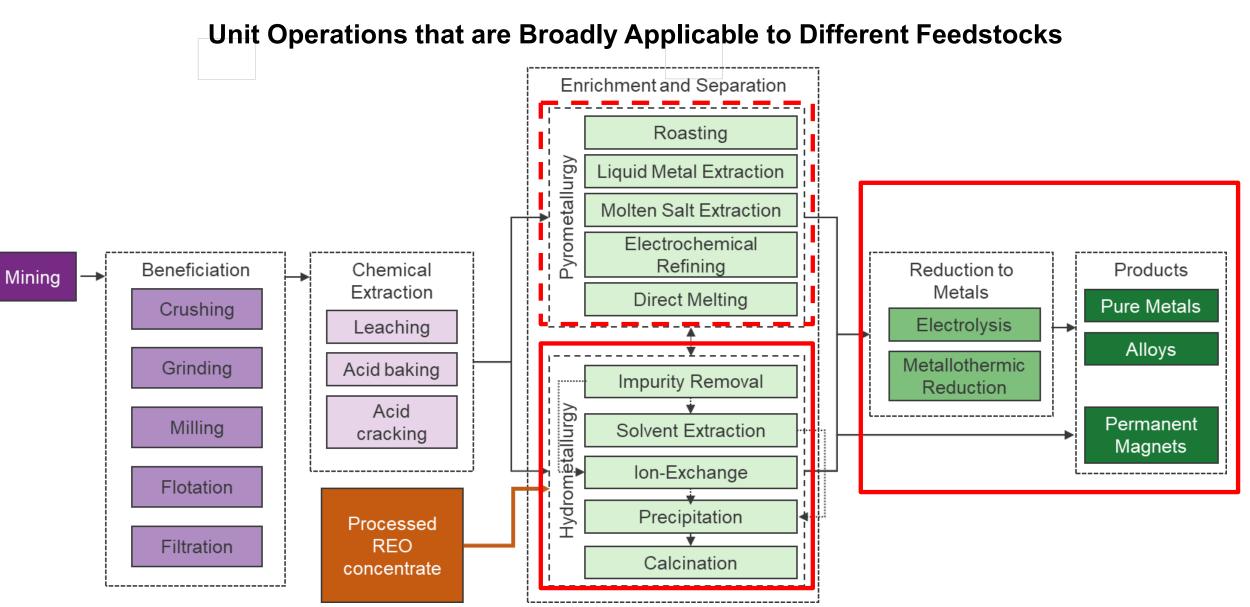
Critical Minerals Supply Chain



Critical Minerals Supply Chain



Critical Minerals Supply Chain



Challenges Associated with Evaluating CM Systems

• Broad Range of Feedstocks

- <u>Conventional Ores</u>: Hard Rock Deposits, Ion-Exchangeable Clays, etc.
- <u>Unconventional</u>: Produced Water, Mining Refuse, Coal Ash, Acid Mine Drainage, Drill Cuttings, Geothermal Brines, etc.
- <u>Recycled Materials</u>: Hard Drives, Batteries, Other Magnets, Fluorescent Lights, etc.
- Wide Range of Potential Products:
 - Of the X products you could produce from a given feedstock, including multiple individual REE, not all have a market now

• Lack of Domestic Market for Critical Materials Presents "Chicken/Egg" Problem

- Lack of domestic production capacity means "widgets" aren't produced here
- Lack of offtake means risk for CM producers and uncertainty over what products to actually generate

• Market and Product Uncertainty

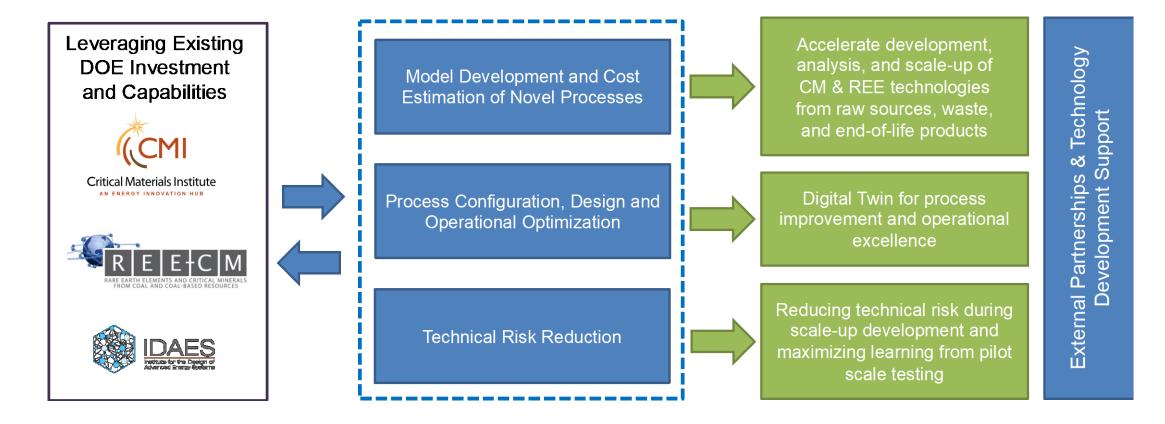
- Are the CM of today going to be the CM of 5 years from now? Probably not...
- Market manipulation concerns



How do you eat an elephant?

PrOMMiS: Process Optimization and Modeling for Minerals Sustainability

Objective: Accelerate scale-up and deployment of innovative CM & REE processes and establish the toolkit to compress future RD3 timelines by leveraging IDAES, CCSI and a decade of DOE CM & REE investment.



PrOMMiS: Summary of Objectives

Rapid & tangible impacts by leveraging IDEAS+ & a decade+ of DOE CMM investment.

Breakdown of objectives :

- Development of a model library and costing capabilities for simulation, optimization, technoeconomic analysis, control, and scale-up of novel CM & REE processing technologies.
- Integration of advanced optimization capabilities for the high-level screening of process configurations to identify the most promising flowsheets, followed by rigorous optimization of these candidates to improve performance and support scale-up, integration, and deployment.
- Utilization of **optimization-under-uncertainty** approaches to **de-risk development** and produce designs that are **robust to process variability** (e.g., feedstock characterization).
- Utilization of these capabilities in collaboration with external partners to accelerate the development of viable novel and intensified processes, including those used for recovery from raw materials and recycling from end-of-life products.
- Maximizing knowledge gained from budget- and schedule-limited experimental campaigns using capabilities for uncertainty quantification, including leveraging models to inform the design of pilotscale experiments and data collection requirements.
- Reducing technical risk associated with scale-up, integration, & deployment of novel technologies through the **validation and refinement of models** with bench-, pilot-, and demo-scale **experimental data**.

PrOMMis High-level Execution and Capabilities

Year 1: Build capabilities for design, optimization, and scale-up specific to CM & REE processes enabling technical risk reduction

- Evaluate landscape of emerging CM & REE production pathways & solicit input on critical industry needs/gaps
- Leverage existing multiscale modeling and optimization capabilities from CCSI & IDAES
 - Build on demonstrated track record of solving problems that are intractable with existing commercial tools
- Ensure applicability to range of feedstocks (e.g., mining, waste streams, and recycling end-of-life-products)

Years 2-5: Apply PrOMMiS to support development & deployment of specific projects (across a range of feedstocks)

- Establish partnerships with domestic entities who have sufficiently mature (TRL 5+) CM & REE technologies
- Support process design, optimization, control, and scale-up for these novel CM & REE projects
- Reduce technical risk and maximize learning from pilot scale testing to accelerate deployment
- Expand model library and create data warehouse to further accelerate domestic CM & REE RD3 efforts

Representative projects which can be leveraged to inform initial capability development (year 1)

- E-Waste Recycling Pilot Facility (CMI/Ames National Laboratory)
- REE Production from Calcium Rich Ash Pilot Facility (NETL's Research & Innovation Center)
- Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling using MSX (CMI/Oak Ridge National Laboratory)

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 - <u>Modeling</u>: Initial Models Complete
 - <u>Cost & Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA)</u>: Under Development
 - <u>Stakeholder Lead Identification</u>: In Progress

PrOMMiS Status

Process Modeling

- Gap Analysis to <u>Prioritize Model Development</u>: *Complete*
- Detailed <u>Literature Review</u>: *Complete*
- <u>Initiate Development</u> of Unit Operation Models: *Complete*
- <u>Complete One</u> or More <u>Flowsheets</u>: *Underway*
- Validate Flowsheet & Perform Optimization Runs: Calendar Year 2024
- Cost Database & Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA)
 - "Top Down" and "Bottom Up" Approaches: Complete* / Ongoing
 - Evaluate public data of REE projects: Complete* / Ongoing
 - Initiate development of unit operations cost assessments: Complete
 - Complete TEA Framework for One Flowsheet: *Underway*

PrOMMiS Status (continued)

- Process Optimization Framework: Not Yet Started
 - <u>Requires</u> one of more <u>working flowsheets</u>
 - GOAL: <u>Validate</u> or Build Upon <u>Prior Optimization Efforts</u>
 - Examine projects which have performed on the fly optimization or selected screenings
 - Determine if results can be reproduced
 - Identify additional opportunities for optimization

• Stakeholder Advisory Board: Onboarding In Progress

Gap Analysis to Prioritize Model Development

- Evaluate DOE & Industry Projects to Identify Cases of Interest
 - High Impact Projects
 - Diversity of Feedstocks Important
 - Prioritize Projects with Willing Collaborators & Good Data Quality
- Identify High Priority Unit Operations & Property Models
 - Common Processes Across the Cases of Interest
 - Low-Hanging Fruit: Easy to Model/Models Already Exist
 - Criticality: Necessary for Modeling CM Systems
- <u>Perform Gap Analysis</u> to Inform Model Development
 - Qualitative Assessment of Identified Unit Operations & Property Models
 - Literature Review to Determine Availability of Mathematical Representations and Data
 - Brief Stakeholders for Feedback on Prioritization

PrOMMiS: Overview of Existing Cases

• FECM Bench- and Pilot-Scale Projects (External Performers)

- Bituminous Coal Ash (Physical Sciences, Inc./Winner Water Services)
- Coal Refuse (University of Kentucky)
- Several others exist

• IIJA/BIL REE Demonstration Facility Awardees

- Lignite Coal (University of North Dakota)
- Acid Mine Drainage (West Virginia University)

• NETL Pilot or Pre-Pilot Projects

- Calcium-rich Fly Ash Technology Commercialization Fund (TCF) Project
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Literature Review & Model Creation (based on Gap Analysis)

Modeling Task Status:

- Identify Cases: Complete
- Gap Analysis: Complete
- Model Creation: In Progress
 - Assign Cases and Unit Operations to Different Teams: Complete
 - Teams perform detailed literature review: Complete
 - Unit operation model creation: In Progress
 - Use existing models or modeling frameworks where feasible
 - IDAES or PARETO models
 - Surrogate models as appropriate
 - Validate with existing models or published data
- **<u>GOAL</u>**: Working Flowsheet by End of 2023

PrOMMiS TEA Cost Bounding Framework

- "Top Down" and "Bottom Up" Approaches
 - Macro data from 43-101 filings to estimate and constrain cost evaluation
 - Equipment cost estimates from the literature or project data, inclusive of rules of thumb
- Evaluate public data of REE projects
 - DOE Awardee Final Reports
 - 43-101 and other filings
- Develop cost & performance assessments for unit operations/processing classes
 - Unit cost data and metrics
- Leverage as costing framework for unconventional feedstocks
 - Learn by doing with a focus on near term results
 - Model fidelity will improve over time

PrOMMiS Optimization Framework

- Optimization Framework enables screening & optimization of flowsheets
 - Identify optimal operating parameters or unit operations (bounded)
 - Screen multiple flowsheets or determine viability of select unit operations
 - Multi-criteria optimization: Cost, Water Use, Energy Use., etc.
- Requires one of more working flowsheets
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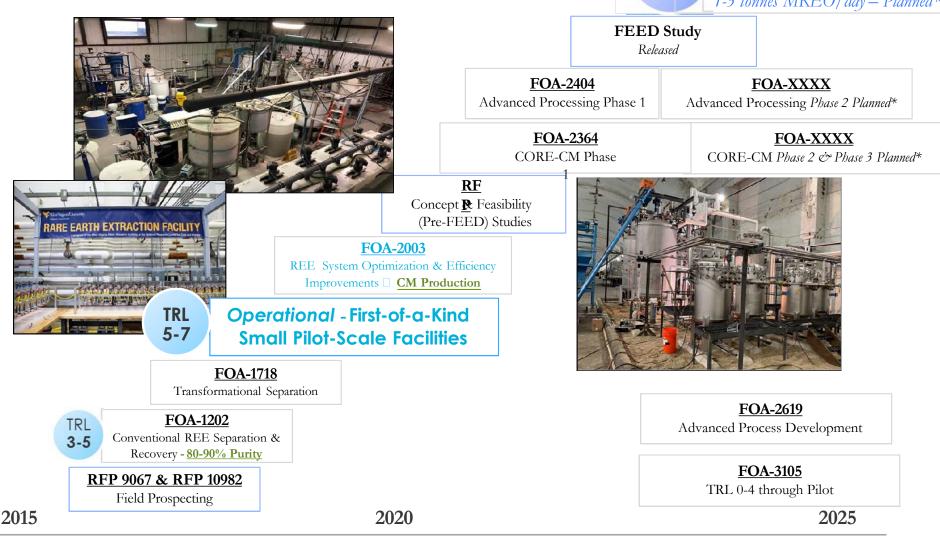
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Acknowledgments



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- Grant Bromhal (Division Director, Acting)
- Anna Wendt (Program Manager)
- Mary Anne Alvin (Program Manager)
- W. Morgan Summers
- Traci Rodosta

NETL MS Leadership & RIC Team

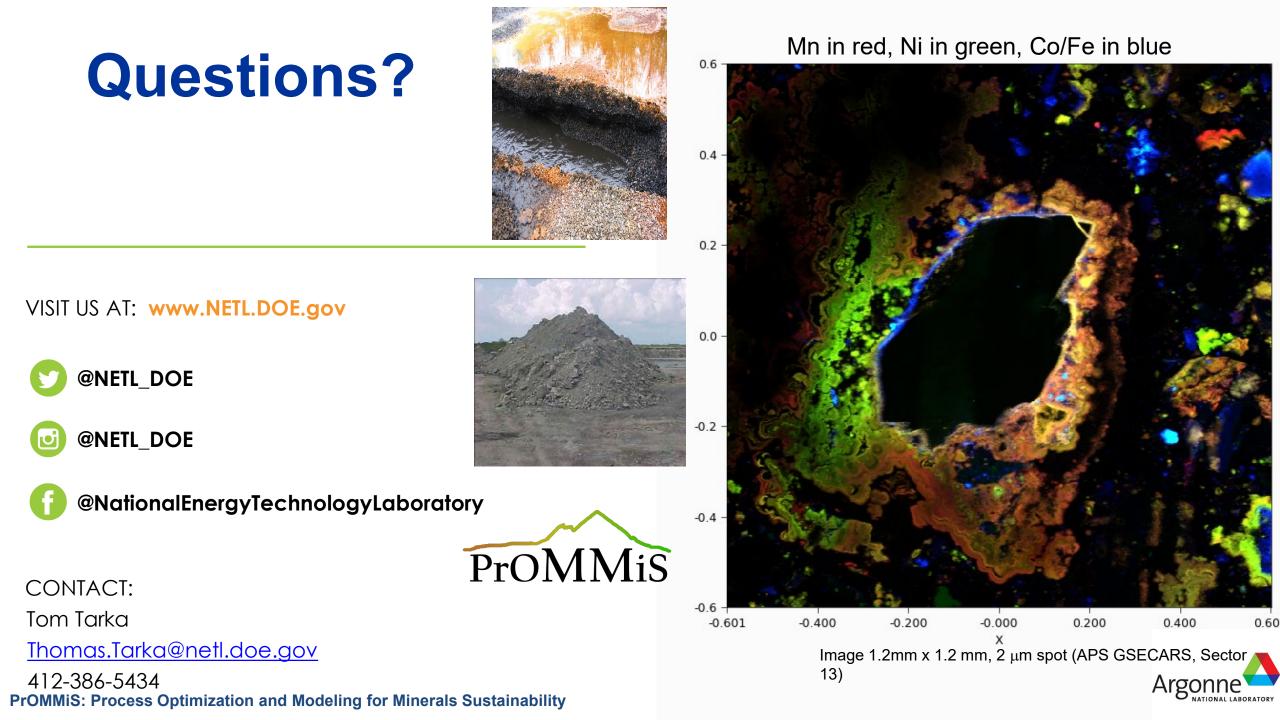
- Jessica Mullen (Technology Manager)
- Burt Thomas (Research & Innovation Center Lead)
- Alison Fritz (SSAE Lead) & Team

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The Entire PSE+ Family



DOE-FECM Personnel, External Stakeholders, NETL TDC Federal Project Managers, NETL RIC & National Lab Scientists and Engineers



PrOMMiS FWP Task Structure

Task 1. Project Management

Task 2. Process Modeling and Optimization Toolset for CM and REE

Subtask 2.1 Core Model Development: Develop library of multi-scale, optimization-ready models of key unit operations in novel CM & REE processes to support technology development activities.

Subtask 2.2 Cost Estimation of CM & REE Processes: Establish reliable capital and operating cost frameworks to support technology evaluation, design, and optimization.

Subtask 2.3 Optimization of Design and Operations: Demonstrate screening and optimization of process configurations with reduced order models, followed by rigorous optimization of design and operation to support scale-up, integration, and deployment of promising technologies.

Subtask 2.4 Technical Risk Reduction: Uncertainty Quantification, Robust Optimization, and Sequential Design of Experiments: Deliver a comprehensive framework for evaluating and reducing the technical risk during development and deployment of novel CM & REE processes.

Subtask 2.5 Software Engineering and Release Management: Manage open-source releases of computational tools framework to support modeling and analysis tasks.

PrOMMiS FWP Task Structure

Task 3. Outreach and Engagement:

Subtask 3.1 Stakeholder Board: Establish conduit for regular input and feedback on program activities from a variety of partners with strong positions in CM & REE process technology development by creating and maintaining a Stakeholder Board.

Subtask 3.2 User Community Outreach and Education: Expand the user community and engagement through increased awareness, advertising, education, and demonstration of software capabilities.

Task 4. Technology Development Support: Develop and maintain collaborations with external partners to support their pilot and demonstration projects, improve models with industrial data, and inform system design, optimization, and scale-up through the application of ProMMiS tools.

- 1st year focused on initiating collaborations with industrial partners for technology development support
- Increase effort over initiative to support at least three key pilot projects to de-risk novel technologies and system integration.
- Representative examples of collaboration and technology development opportunities:
 - 1. E-Waste Recycling Pilot Facility (CMI/Ames National Laboratory)
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PrOMMiS: Overview of Existing Cases (Con't)

• CMI Pilot Projects

- Magnet Recycling
- Hard Drive Recycling
- REE Recovery during Phosphate Production
- Membrane for Lithium Recovery from Produced Water
- Others, TBD
 - REE Recovery from bauxite residues
 - Battery recycling (ReCell)

PrOMMiS: Overview of Existing Data/Models

- INL Solvent Extraction Optimization Model and Pilot Test-Bed
- PHREEQC/AMDTreat Property Model for Acid Mine Drainage and similar solutions
- Virginia Tech Mineral Processing Optimization Models
- Missouri Science & Technology Optimization Models
- "REESim" spreadsheet model (deliverable from FECM FOA project)
- TEA Cost Bounding Framework (NETL)
- NETL Process Model and Unit Operation Assessment (under development)

Gap Analysis Process



Perform flowsheet evaluation for each pilot process

Quantity metrics on unit processes

Determine final models for development and identify data needs

- List out unit operations
- Identify property models needed for unit operations
- Qualify metrics on unit processes

Rank and Prioritize with Guiding Principles

Realism.

• Leverage

and pilots

Reasonable

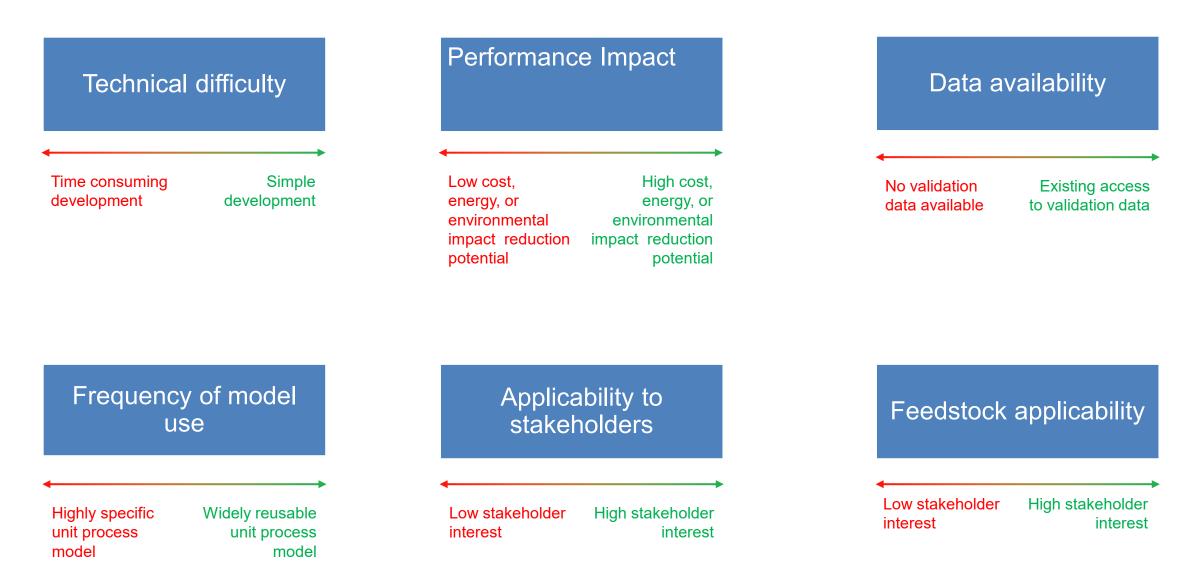
existing models

computation time

- Impact.
 Multi-cr
 - Multi-criteria benefits (environmental, energy, cost)
 - Critical mineral supply chain impact (filling knowledge gaps for relevant materials)

- Applicability.
- Broad modeling context
- Focused property models/ feedstock types

Assessment Criteria for Prioritizing Unit Ops & Property Models



Gap Analysis Data Grid – Creation and Screening

Starting the Gap Analysis:

• Identify relevant cases & Stakeholders

Process Name	Source	Product	Data Availability	Process Commonality	Costing	Team Contacts	
Powder River Basis Coal Byproducts	Coal Ash	60% REO	Good	High	Key unit ops missin	Internal	
Membrane Separation from Brines	3 specific salt lakes	LiCO3 or LiOH, >95%	Limited	Key processes are unique, but many common of	None	Limited for processes studie	d
HDD Recycling	Various		Limited/None		Some	?	
Phosphates	Phosphoric acid sludg	95% pure REO, 46% recover	Limited in source	High, back end is common with many processe	Some	?	
University of Kentucky	Coal Ash, AMD	REO, >90% purity	Good	High	Good	Strong	
Outreach							
UND Lignite Coal							
WVU Bench Scale SX							
WVU Acid Mine Drainage							
UWy / Ramaco Carbon carbon products							

• Qualitative prioritization of Unit Operations

				Exists in	Technical	Performance	Data	Frequency of	Applicability to	Feedstock
Supply Chain Area	Operating Unit	Feedstock	Mineral	Data From	difficulty	Impact	availability	model use	stakeholders	applicability
Chemical Extraction	Leaching	Low-Rank Coal Fly Ash	REE	FECM Pilot						
Hydrometallurgy	Solvent extraction	Low-Rank Coal Fly Ash	REE	FECM Pilot						
Chemical Extraction	Leaching	Acid Mine Drainage	REE	FECM Pilot						
Hydrometallurgy	Filtration	Acid Mine Drainage	REE	FECM Pilot						
Hydrometallurgy	Sorbent	Acid Mine Drainage	REE	FECM Pilot						

• Evaluation of needed and existing Property Models

Data Grid – Diving in!

											Technical Difficulty		
				rforma Sizing/De e Data sign Data	-	Costing/		Broader Applicab ility		Minimu	m Fidelity	High	Fidelity
Operation Name		Process Data								Unit Op	Properties	Unit Op	Properties
Common Unit Ops					_								
Precipitation/Crystallization	5	Type Specific	0	1	0 to 2	2	2	3		1	1	2	
Leaching / Dissolution	4	1 to 2	0	1	2	2	3	3		1	. 1	3	Į.
Solvent Extraction	3	1 to 2	0	Limited	2	2	3	3		1	. 1	3	
Calcination / Roasting	3	1 to 3	0	1	3	2	3	3		1	. 1	5	
Nanofiltration (NF)	1	. 1	2	1	0	0	2	2	Design is likely lab-scale.	1	. 1	4	
Reverse osmosis (RO)	1	. 1	2	. 1	0	0	2	2	Design is likely lab-scale.	1	2	4	. :
Application Specific Ops													
Excavation and transport	1	. 3		1	3	2	1	1		1			
Electrochemical intercalation-deintercalation (El	1	. 1	2	1	0	0		1	Sizing is likely lab-scale.	2			
Evaporation	1	. 1	0	0	0	0	2	2		1			
Electrodialysis	1	. 1	2	1	0	0 to 2	2	2	Designs are bench-scale.	1 to 2			
HDD Disassembly/Shredding	1	Type specific	С					1					
Copper valorization tanks	1	. 1	0	1	1	2	2	1		1			
continuous-flow decanter centrifuge (CFDC)	1	. 1	3	0	0	1	3	1		2			
Ascorbic acid addition	1							1					
Ion Exchange	1	. 0		0	2	0	0	2					
Solids Grinding	1						2	2		2	1	3	Į
Beneficiation (various types)	1						3	2		1	. 1	4	
Balance of Plant Ops													
Filtration								3		1	1	2	
Centrifuge								2		1	1	3	
Wastewater treatment		1	0	1	1	2	2	3		1	2	5	
Settlers/Thickeners								2		1	2	3	3

Stakeholder Advisory Board

• GOAL: Ensure PrOMMiS is meaningful and "Moves the Needle"

• Targeted Members

- Mineral Process Modeling Experts
- Critical Material Institute (CMI) Representative
- Project Leads of existing or upcoming pilot- or demo-scale CMM projects
- ESG, J40, DEI representative
- DOE HQ Stakeholders
- Target Size: 10-15 members