Critical Materials and Life Cycle Management: The Example of Rare Earths – curse or blessing?



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Environmental impacts of rare earth production -Status, challenges and strategies for improvement

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Rare earth elements (REEs) are important raw materials for green technologies. However, their mining and processing are often not environmentally sustainable. The presentation provides an overview of the environmental impacts of current primary REE production based on published Life cycle assessment (LCA) results. Existing major REE deposits in China, Australia, and the US as well as an alternative European RE mineral are compared and improvement strategies are discussed.

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