

materials will displace bentonite in virtually every major application.

Transportation costs are critical for Wyoming bentonite because of the distances involved and the fact that major markets are often served by overland transport. In drilling muds, the markets are 600-1,200 miles away; similarly, the iron foundry markets are concentrated in the East North Central and Mid-Atlantic states, mostly 800-1,400 miles away; and about two-thirds of iron ore pelletizing is 600-1,200 miles away. Also, other bentonite producers — U.S. and foreign — are penetrating traditional markets with different bentonites and chemically modified clays. For example, Southern Clay recently expanded Organoclay production in Texas. Similar competition can be expected from European producers and, potentially, from China.

## Wyoming Bentonite Dips...(continued)

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