

ASSOCIATION OF BARITE AND SULPHIDES IN EAST AND CENTRAL BELTS OF
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA - SIGNIFICANCE AND PROSPECTS

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Barite occurrences in the East and Central Belts are commonly associated with lead and zinc sulphides. The barite occurs in various rock types ranging from marine meta-sedimentary and meta-volcanics to continental clastic rocks which are of Carboniferous to Jurassic-

Cretaceous ages. Some of the barite occurrences are associated with intrusive rocks, whilst for the rest the association is less certain or unknown.

Barite has been found in situ with iron, lead, copper and zinc sulphides. It has also been found to be associated with stream sediments and soil anomalies of lead and zinc. Where base-metal sulphides are not discernible in the barite samples, residual soils over the barite are highly anomalous of the base-metals.

The economic potential of the barite occurrence is reviewed. Two of the barite occurrences have been mined sporadically on a small scale. A few are not likely to be of any economic importance. Two or three other occurrences are likely to contain barite and/or sulphides deposits. Follow-up investigations are warranted in a number of localities where barite boulders or barite heavy minerals are present in the stream sediments.
