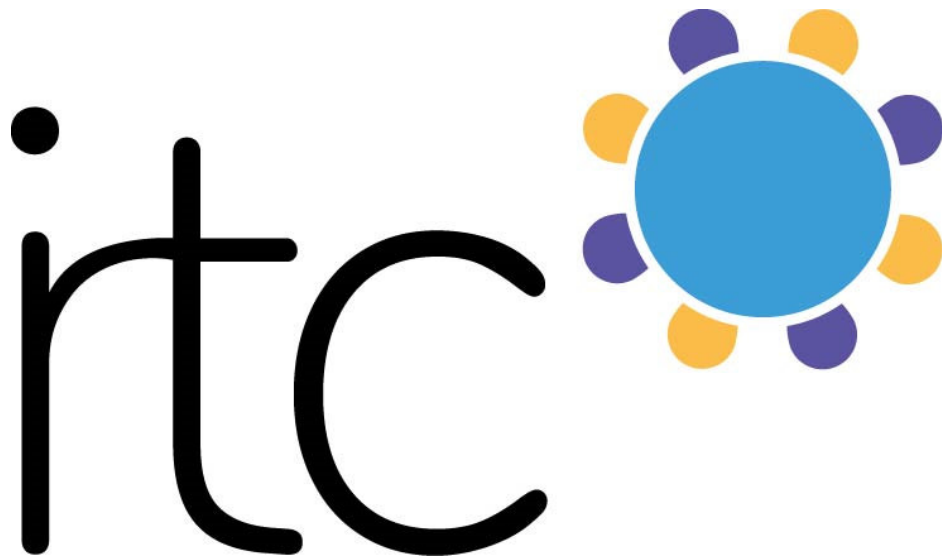


# HOW METHODOLOGY DETERMINES WHAT IS CRITICAL

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**June 19, 2018**

Resources for Future  
Generations Conference,  
Vancouver

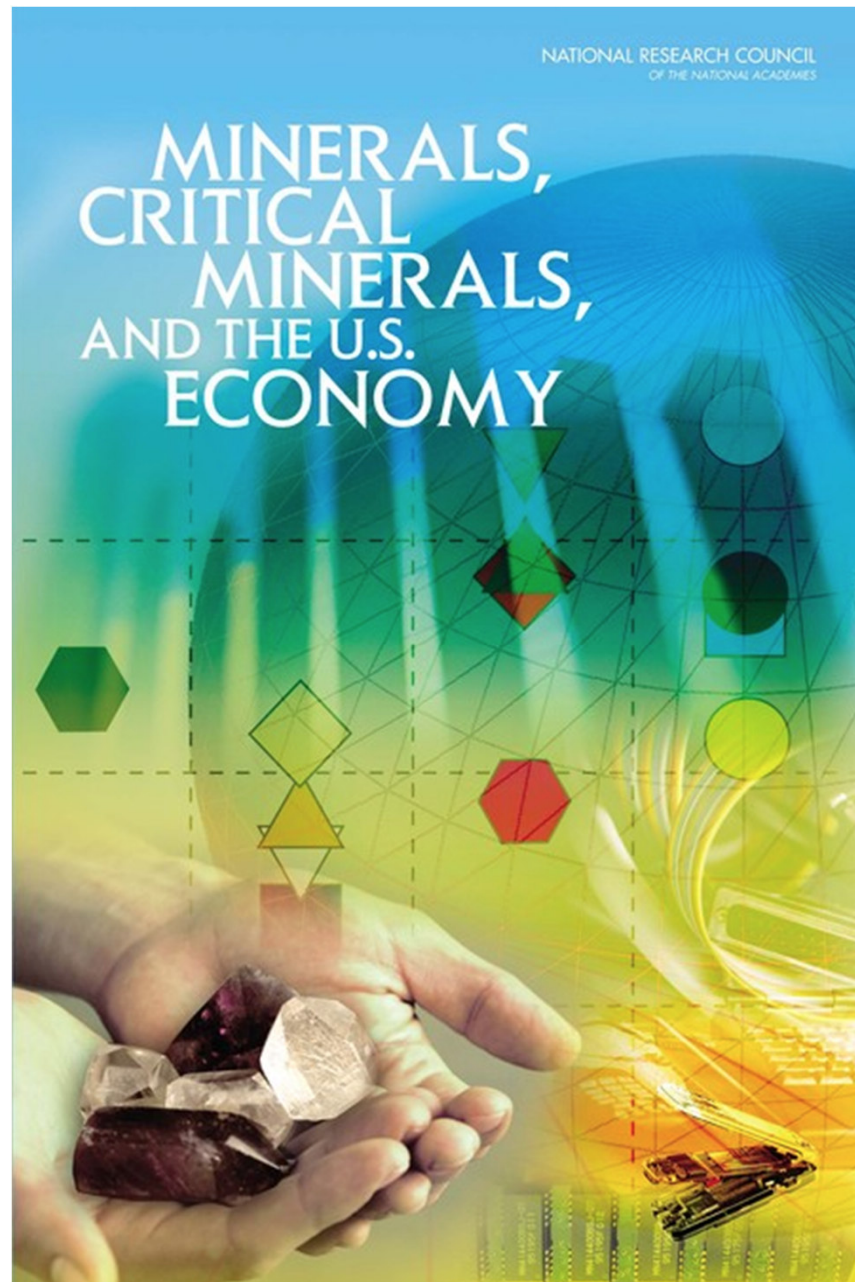




# US National Research Council 2008

Rod Eggert

Colorado School of Mines &  
Critical Materials Institute



# Committee

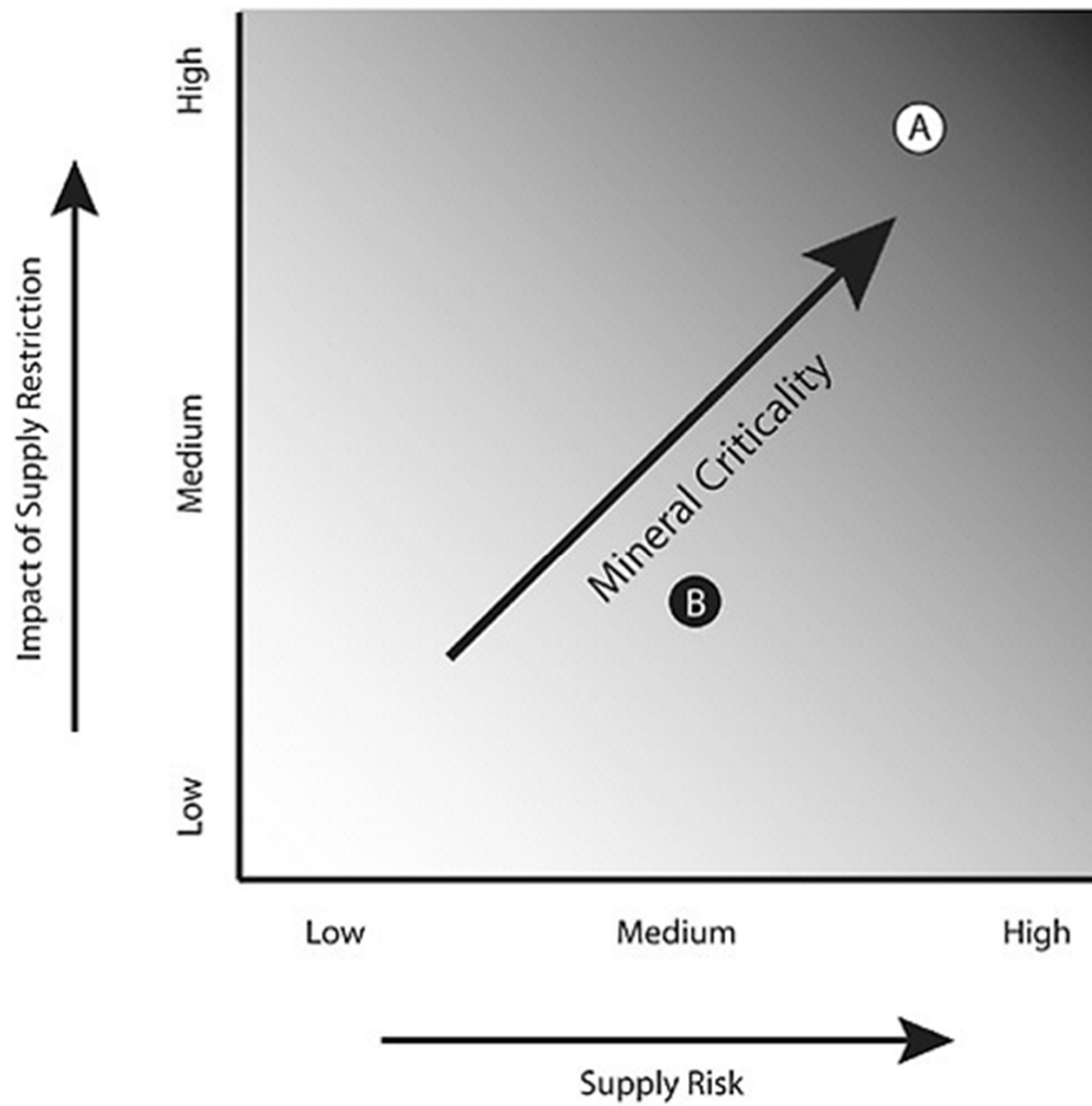


- Rod Eggert, chair, Colorado School of Mines
  - Ann Carpenter, US Gold
  - Stephen Freiman, Freiman Consulting
  - Tom Graedel, Yale
  - Drew Meyer, Vulcan Materials
  - Terence McNulty, McNulty & Associates
  - Brig Moudgil, University of Florida
  - Mary Poulton, University of Arizona
  - Leonard Surges, Natural Resources Canada
- 
- Elizabeth Eide, NRC staff

# Goal and Scope



- Identify & review nonfuel minerals “critical” for the domestic economy and emerging technologies
- Etc.



Source: National Research Council 2008

# Factor explanation

## Horizontal Axis



- Short to medium term (up to a decade)
  - Lack of production diversity, demand shocks in small markets, co-production, recycling
- Long term (more than a decade)
  - Investments in R&D and education throughout the material supply chain (exploration → recycling)

# Factor explanation

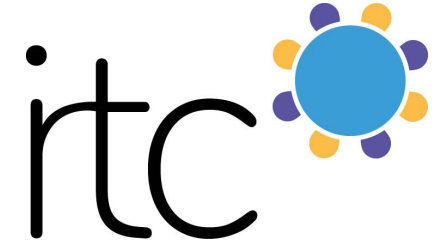
## Vertical Axis



- Focus on:
  - Size of end-use sectors
  - Substitutability
- A struggle
  - How to score the vertical axis?



# Aggregation

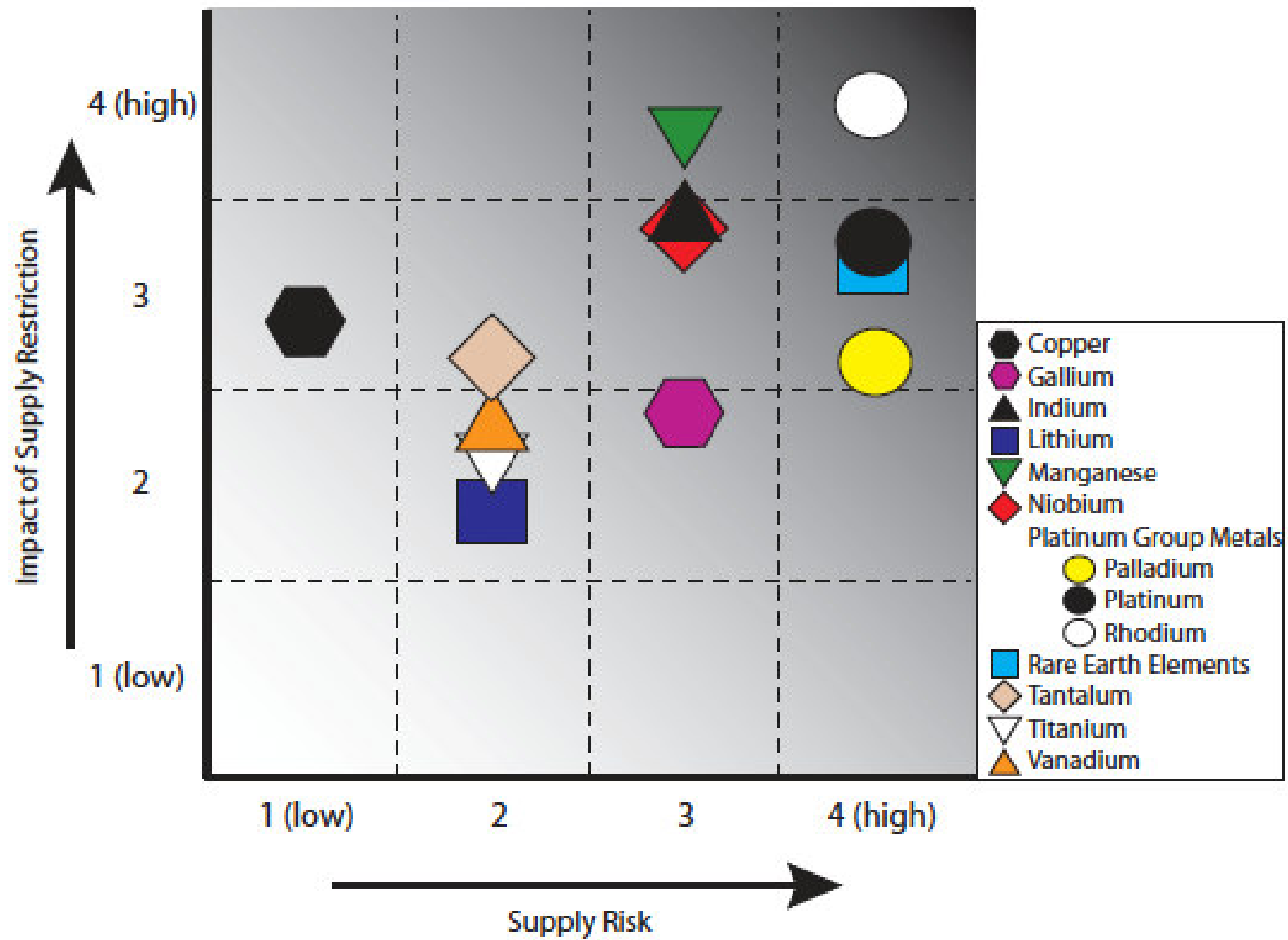


- Horizontal axis
  - Subjective
- Vertical axis
  - Weighted by size of end-use sector

# Results



- Not a definitive list
- Rather a preliminary evaluation of 11 materials or families of materials
  - Short to medium term



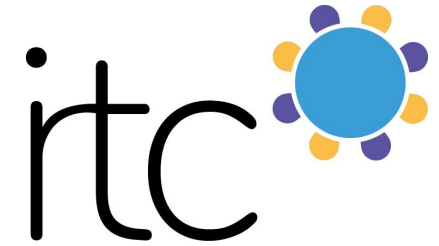
Source: National Research Council 2008

# Unique features



- A framework capable of being adapted and customized to particular circumstances
- Emphasis on:
  - Dynamic nature of criticality
  - Importance of defining the time frame (short, medium, long terms)
- Warning: *import dependence* and *reserves* are potentially (very) misleading indicators of supply risk

# Limitations



- Subjective scoring, based on quantitative inputs
- How to score the vertical axis?
- Under-appreciation of *supply-chain* risks

# Questions?

