



Minerals Technologies to Raise Prices for Talc and Other Mineral Products

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NEW YORK, Dec 19, 2003 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Minerals Technologies (NYSE: MTX) announced today a price increase for talc and barite products, which are used primarily in the plastics, coatings and health-care industries. The average price increases for Barretts Minerals Inc. (BMI), Montana talc products are 5 percent. For products from BMI's Mt. Vernon, Indiana, and Wellsville, Ohio, facilities, which are manufactured from imported ore, the price increases are 15 cents to 20 cents per pound. These price increases are effective February 1, 2004 or as contract terms permit.

"Over the past year, our Barretts Minerals facilities have been diligent in trying to offset manufacturing costs associated with our talc and barite product lines," said Randy Harrison, vice president and managing director, Performance Minerals. "In addition to the cost increases for fuel and electricity associated with ore processing, price increases for raw materials, compliance with more stringent environmental regulations and higher employee health-care costs have had a significant impact on our manufacturing costs.

"For our imported ore-based products, recent increases in ocean freight rates, coupled with the Chinese government's discontinuation of export incentives are having a major impact on the delivered prices of ore for our Indiana and Ohio operations," said Mr. Harrison. "These price adjustments will partially offset increases in our raw material and manufacturing costs. Barretts Minerals will continue to develop and offer high-value products to meet our customers' requirements."

Minerals Technologies Inc. is a global resource- and technology-based growth company that develops, produces and markets the highest quality performance-enhancing minerals and related products, systems and services. MTI serves the paper, steel, polymer and other manufacturing industries. The company reported sales of \$752.7 million in 2002.

For further information about Minerals Technologies Inc. look on the Internet at www.mineralstech.com

SOURCE: Minerals Technologies Inc.

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