



**Great Salt Lake  
Minerals Corporation**  
*A Compass Minerals Company*

**Great Salt Lake  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Great Salt Lake Minerals Files New Permit Application for Solar Ponds In Long-Range Plan to Produce More Sulfate of Potash Specialty Fertilizer**

OGDEN, Utah (May 27, 2009) – Great Salt Lake Minerals Corp. announced today that it has withdrawn and re-filed a permit application with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build new solar evaporation ponds on the Great Salt Lake to meet long-term need for increased production of sulfate of potash specialty fertilizer.

“America and the world must increase food production as populations rise over the next decades, which means farmers will need more all-natural fertilizers to replenish the soil’s nutrients,” said Corey Milne, site manager of Great Salt Lake Minerals. “We produce a chemical-free, organic-approved nutrient using the sun as our primary energy source. Expanding our potash production contributes to the solution in an environmentally responsible manner.”

In filing its new permit application, Great Salt Lake Minerals withdrew a 2007 application to develop 33,000 acres on the lake. The new application includes 31,000 acres of the earlier permit application, a separate 6,000-acre legacy lease on the west side of the lake, and 38,000 acres on the northwest arm of the lake that the state of Utah agreed to lease to the company in January in exchange for the company relinquishing undeveloped leases it has held since 1967 on approximately 30,000 acres around Promontory Point with greater value to wildlife and the lake’s ecology.

Great Salt Lake Minerals intends to develop these acres into ponds over time as the need for its nutrient increases. When the new ponds become productive, the state will receive millions of dollars each year in increased royalty payments. Great Salt Lake Minerals currently has approximately 43,000 acres of solar evaporation ponds and pays more in state royalties than any other company on the Great Salt Lake.

Sulfate of potash provides necessary potassium and sulfur nutrients for high-value fruits, vegetables and other wholesome foods, without most commodity potassium fertilizers’ high chloride levels that can damage certain crops. Great Salt Lake Minerals’ specialty fertilizers are organic-approved because they are all natural with no chemicals added.



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“People are consuming more healthy fruits, vegetables and high-quality crops produced with all-natural, chemical-free, low-chloride fertilizer,” Milne said. “Demand has increased over the years and we must prepare to meet the needs of growers today and tomorrow.”

All of the areas involved in the permit application are identified as suitable for mineral leasing in the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan Resource Document. The management plan, sponsored jointly by the Utah Department of Natural Resources and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, was developed to provide a coordinated natural resources management plan for the lands and resources of the Great Salt Lake. Salt and other minerals in the lake are owned by the state, and the state collects royalties from lessors who extract the minerals. Mineral extraction on the lake began more than 100 years ago.

The plan to build new solar evaporation ponds will undergo federal environmental review with the Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency. The permitting process includes a comprehensive environmental impact analysis and invites public comment, which gives all interested parties a chance to provide input. The final scope of the combined 75,000-acre projects – including the timing, cost, additional pond harvest and need for additional processing capacity – will be determined as grower demand dictates. The leased acreage is unlikely to yield increased SOP production for at least five years due to the time requirements of the permitting process, pond construction, and the three-year solar evaporation cycle.

“Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation and its 350 Ogden-based employees are committed to the well-being of the lake and its ecosystems. Throughout nearly 40 years of operation on the lake, we have adhered to all regulations and operated in an environmentally sound manner, relying primarily on solar energy to produce our natural, organic products,” Milne said. “We will continue to respect the environment and the ecosystems of the lake as we expand to become an even greater contributor to the local economy and community, and to meet the vital needs of farmers.”

More information about Great Salt Lake Minerals’ multi-phased plans to increase sulfate of potash specialty fertilizer production is available at [www.gslfuture.com](http://www.gslfuture.com).

Public comment meetings on the expansion plans will be held on June 4 in Bountiful at Davis County Library, 725 S. Main Street; on June 9 in Ogden at the Comfort Suites Hotel, 2250 S. 1200 W.; and on June 11 in Salt Lake City at West High School, 241 N. 300 W.



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### **About Great Salt Lake Minerals**

Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation has been operating on the shores of the Great Salt Lake near Ogden, Utah since 1970. The company produces salt, potassium sulfate (also known as sulfate of potash or SOP) and magnesium chloride, using solar evaporation. Great Salt Lake Minerals is a wholly owned subsidiary of Compass Minerals.

### **About Compass Minerals**

Based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Compass Minerals is a leading producer of minerals, including salt, sulfate of potash specialty fertilizer and magnesium chloride. The company provides highway deicing salt to customers in North America and the United Kingdom, and produces and distributes consumer deicing and water conditioning products, ingredients used in consumer and commercial foods, specialty fertilizers, and products used in agriculture and other consumer and industrial applications. Compass Minerals also provides records management services to businesses throughout the U.K.

*This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on the Company's current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially. The differences could be caused by a number of factors including those factors identified in Compass Minerals International's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 20, 2009. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements made in this press release to reflect future events or developments.*