mile (199 km²) area near Salt Springs where salt and potash were discovered in 1973; by the end of 1975 the company had drilled five holes in the Sussex area.

Salt. Canadian shipments of salt amounted to 6.00 million tons (5.45 million t) valued at $60.6 million in 1974 and 5.68 million tons (5.16 million t) valued at $60.6 million in 1975 (Table 12.19). About 70% of the total was rock salt used for snow and ice control on streets and highways and for chemical manufacturing. The remainder is fine vacuum salt and salt as brine used for producing caustic soda and chlorine.

There are three rock salt mines, one in Nova Scotia and two in Ontario. Salt is also produced as a by-product of potash mining in Saskatchewan. Fine salt evaporator plants and brining operations are located in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

A joint federal-provincial exploration program discovered a potash-salt deposit in Kings County, NB, in 1971. In 1973 a second federal-provincial program resulted in a similar discovery at Salt Springs in the same county. International Minerals and Chemical Corporation (Canada) Limited has been granted exploration rights, as already noted.

Sulphur. Canadian sulphur shipments in all forms in 1975 amounted to 4.7 million long tons (4.8 million t) valued at $99.7 million (Table 12.20). Shipments decreased 16% in volume but increased 27% in value compared to 1974. Reduced volume reflects the world economic downturn which began in late 1974.

Canadian sulphur is obtained from three sources: sour natural gas and petroleum including the tar sands, which produce elemental sulphur; smelter gases which produce sulphuric acid; and pyrite concentrates which are used in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Small amounts of elemental sulphur are recovered as a by-product of electrolytic refining of nickel sulphide matte and a small quantity of liquid sulphur dioxide is produced from pyrites and smelter gases. In Canada 85% of sulphur shipments in 1975 were in elemental form, nearly all from sour natural gas.

The dramatic growth in the Canadian sulphur industry during the 10 years from 1963 to 1973 culminated in the peaking of output from sour natural gas, principally in Alberta. Canadian production of sulphur in all forms in 1973 was 7.97 million long tons (8.1 million t), 7.3 million long tons (7.4 million t) in elemental form. In 1975, total output was estimated at 7.4 million long tons (7.5 million t), the 9% decline resulting almost entirely from reduced output from sour natural gas in western Canada. Since 1968 Canada has been the world's largest supplier of elemental sulphur.

Gypsum. In 1975 Canadian production of crude gypsum fell to 6.3 million tons (5.7 million t) from 7.9 million tons (7.2 million t) in 1974, most of it exported to the US. Exports were mainly from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland quarries operated by Canadian subsidiaries of US gypsum products manufacturers.

Nine companies produced crude gypsum in Canada in 1975 at 15 locations, while five companies manufactured gypsum products at 17 locations. Production of gypsum in Canada is closely related to the building construction industry, particularly the residential building sector, in both Canada and the eastern United States; the decline in housing activity is reflected in the sharp drop in production.

Nepheline syenite. Nepheline syenite was produced from two operations on Blue Mountain, 25 miles (40 km) northeast of Peterborough, Ont. In 1975 production was estimated at 520,000 tons (472 000 t), a decrease of 16% from 1974 (Table 12.22) reflecting the world economic slump. The value of shipments in 1975 was $8.7 million, down 6% from that of 1974. Exports accounted for 75% of total shipments. Sales to the US representing 96% of Canada's total exports, decreased 19%. Nepheline syenite is preferred to feldspar as a source of essential alumina and alkalis in glass manufacture. Other uses include the manufacture of ceramics, enamels and as a filler in paints, papers, plastics and foam rubber. Canada is the world's largest producer of nepheline syenite.