

The Rio Capim Kaolinic District: a new source for coating clay in the 3rd Millenium.

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The Rio Capim Kaolinic District is located along the Capim River basin, situated at the northeastern portion of the Pará State, Brasil

In 1997 DOCEGEO/CVRD started an exploration program for coating kaolin along the Capim river basin and as result, two deposits, Capim 1 and Capim 6 were found. Consequently the Projeto Caulim da Pará Pigmentos (Pará Pigments Kaolin Project) was consolidated with the kaolin mine located at Ipixuna do Pará and the port at Barcarena.

From 1996 to 1999 DOCEGEO has intensified the exploration work in the Capim River basin and as consequence nine new high quality kaolin occurrences were found.

Two stratigraphic units constitute the geology of the region: Barreiras Formation is the upper unit being composed of silty-sandstone and fine to coarse sandstone (Upper Tertiary); Ipixuna Formation is made of a kaolin bed intercalated with kaolinitic sandstone (Lower Tertiary).

The recently found of good quality kaolin ore reserves, specifically of the coating type, led the implementation of two production projects: Pará Pigmentos S.A. and Rio Capim Caulim S.A., and brought on the Rio Capim Kaolinitic District to compete in the world market, therefore creating a broad new industrial perspective for the eastern region of Pará State.