

## **Mining Districts of Rio Grande do Sul State**

<sup>1</sup>Santos, E.L., <sup>2</sup>Maciel, L.A.C. and Zir, J.A.F., <sup>1</sup>DNPM, Porto Alegre, Brazil, <sup>2</sup>DNPM, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Fifteen mining districts were identified in Rio Grande do Sul State. The most important mineral commodities of the state are coal, building material, gemstone, limestone and kaolin which correspond to 98% of the total mineral revenues.

The mining districts of Alto Uruguai (amethyst), Salto do Jacuí (agate), Lajeado (amethyst and agate) and Nova Prata (dimension stones) are located in the Plateau Region, represented by Mesozoic volcanic rocks ranging from basic to acid composition (basalt, dacite, rhyodacite and rhyolite).

The districts of Leste de Porto Alegre (coal, peat, ornamental stones, crushed stone and flooring or paving sandstone), Baixo Jacuí, Capané and Candiota (coal, clay and sand) are located in the Peripheral Depression Region, represented by small portions of crystalline basement, paleozoic sedimentary sequences of the Paraná Basin and quaternary sediments of the Jacuí river and its tributaries.

The Bujuru mining district is located in the Coastal Plain Region where rutile, zirconite and ilmenite are concentrated on eolic dunes of coastal sedimentation.

The shield region is divided in four areas: West - Vila Nova do Sul-São Gabriel (gold, limestone, talc) and Vauthier (gold); Center- West - Lavras do Sul (gold, copper and limestone) and Caçapava do Sul-Minas do Camaquã (copper, lead, zinc, limestone and siltstone); Center-East – Capivarita-Encruzilhada do Sul (tin, tungsten, kaolin, clay, limestone and ornamental stones) and East - Arroio Grande (limestone and feldspar). These areas are composed of gneissic and granitic rocks, metavolcanic-sedimentary and volcanic-sedimentary sequences of the Lower Proterozoic and the Upper Proterozoic-Eopaleozoic.