

CleanTech Vanadium's Manhattan-Sized Land Position in America's Critical Minerals Race for Fluorspar

written by InvestorNews | December 23, 2025

From the opening lines of the InvestorNews.com interview, it was clear that [CleanTech Vanadium Mining Corp.](#) (TSXV: CTV | OTCQB: CTVFF) is staking a bold claim in America's bid for critical mineral independence, a theme now underscored by recent strategic acquisitions and royalty expansions that together reshape the narrative around domestic fluorspar supply. Bekzod Kasimov, the company's Business Development Manager, described CleanTech's latest move: "we recently [announced](#) the acquisition of roughly 1,600 acres in Illinois... we acquired areas that have been in production historically", surrounding the Hicks Dome deposit, one of the largest known fluorspar and rare earth element occurrences in the United States – land that now boosts the company's Illinois holdings to roughly 2,800 acres and, combined with Kentucky, more than 17,500 acres across the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar District.

The significance of that move is not lost on CleanTech leadership, who have emphasized the size and potential of the holdings; according to the company's CEO, the land position is now "larger than Manhattan." Kasimov anchored the strategic rationale in the broader supply-and-demand challenges facing critical minerals, noting that fluorspar is defined as a critical mineral by the U.S. Geological Survey and that "supply of many critical minerals is highly concentrated, particularly in countries like China, and is often used as leverage in

negotiations with the United States and Europe.” He pointed to U.S. policy pushing for diversified supply sources – a backdrop that has made the company’s acquisitions timely and potentially transformative.

Kasimov recounted that CleanTech’s interest in fluorspar grew from observing market dynamics: “China became a net importer of fluorspar... reflected in pricing. In 2025 alone, the price of fluorspar increased by more than 40% to 50% and is currently trading around US\$500 per tonne for acid-grade fluorspar,” underscoring the commodity’s rising economic and strategic value. He emphasized the breadth of fluorspar’s applicability – from **semiconductor manufacturing to renewable energy and uranium enrichment – and insisted that “fluorspar cannot be replaced” in these critical industrial processes.

Asked about how he came to work in this space, Kasimov highlighted the company’s experience in navigating U.S. regulatory frameworks, referencing the positive *Record of Decision* on the Environmental Impact Statement at the Gibellini Vanadium Project in Nevada, another CleanTech asset classified as a critical mineral project under U.S. policy. “Because of that experience, it was a natural choice to focus on the United States,” he explained, describing Illinois and Kentucky as historically productive fluorspar regions with significant untapped resources.

Kasimov also touched on the broader geological promise of Hicks Dome, noting that beyond fluorspar, there is potential for rare earth element discoveries – particularly heavy rare earths such as dysprosium, scandium, yttrium, and possibly germanium – bolstering the technical allure of the company’s expanded land position. While confirming the certainty of fluorspar within the acquired areas, he distinguished that rare earth potential is based on geological inference and historical context.

Financial strategy came into focus when Kasimov explained the expanded royalty [agreement](#) with Oracle Commodity Holding, which covers a 2% net smelter return royalty on minerals from CleanTech's properties, including the newly acquired Illinois parcels, in exchange for financing that helps underwrite project development – a mechanism he described as one of the tools mining companies use to fund growth.

To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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