Demand for REE exceeds supply (supply–demand imbalance)

This may lead to

Increased price for the commodities

This may lead to

Consumers looking for other materials to use instead of REEs (For example, Ford is going to use Li-ion batteries in their new 2013 Ford Fusion C-Max Hybrid models instead of batteries with REEs to make the cars more affordable)

This may lead to

New mining ventures worldwide

This may lead to

New environmental issues arising from improper mine tailing disposal, and/or unsustainable mining practices

This may lead to

Continued dependence on conventional fossil fuels instead of alternative energy sources such as wind turbines

This may lead to

The REE deposits that were not profitable before will become profitable with increased prices (mineral resources will become mineral reserves)

This may lead to

Increased supply for REEs

This may lead to

Research and development to identify other suitable materials to replace REEs, new deposits, purification processes, environmental impacts of extraction, purification, and use, etc.

This may lead to

Economic growth, job creation, infrastructure, diffusing international tension, etc.

This may lead to

Consumers changing their consumption patterns and not using the commodities with REEs (people did survive without MP3 players not too long ago)

This may lead to

Less demand for REEs

This may lead to

Consumers looking for other materials to use instead of REEs (For example, Ford is going to use Li-ion batteries in their new 2013 Ford Fusion C-Max Hybrid models instead of batteries with REEs to make the cars more affordable)

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