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Mineral study has been launched at Montana State University

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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

A three-year mineral study supported by a \$35,000 National Science Foundation grant has been launched at Montana State University, according to MSU officials.

Dr. John Hower, associate professor of geology, is director of the research project, entitled "Chemical Composition and Structure of Natural Illites and Synthesis of Illite."

Illite, a mica-type clay, is the most abundant mineral occurring in sedimentary rocks, the MSU geologist said. He is studying its mode of origin on the basis of variations in crystal structure and chemical composition.

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