Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

Venue: Aluminum Hall, Ministry of Mines, 8th October 2015

The 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) chaired by Shri Balvinder Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Chairman NMET Executive Committee was held on 8th October 2015, in the Aluminum Hall of Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

The list of Members and invitees is given at Annexure.

2. Dr. Niranjan K. Singh, Joint Secretary, Mines and Member-Secretary, NMET Executive Committee welcomed the members and invitees.

3. In his opening remarks, the Secretary briefly explained that we would deliberate in the meeting on the modalities for smooth online transaction of NMET funds by the States, categorization and selection of projects for funding and the extent of exploration cost sharing with the stakeholders. He stated that accelerating mineral exploration activities in the country was a priority to improve overall mineral production and in this regard, NMET could play a significant role by funding prioritized projects. He also said that the 2% equivalent of royalty received from the mineral concessionaires would approximately accrue Rs.400-500 crore in the NMET Fund, in a year.

3. Shri Koshy John, Director, presented a brief overview on the objects and functions of NMET.

4. Shri D.N. Sharma, Chief Manager (e-banking), SBI made a presentation on technology and services available with SBI for online/offline money transactions and model solutions for collection and transfer of funds under NMET.

5. Shri D.K. Mohanty, Director of Mines, Odisha explained the key features of the online transaction system successfully implemented in Odisha wherein, various clearances and passes are system generated as soon as the lessee completes all mandatory procedures and formalities online. He said that the Odisha Mines website was linked with the Government treasury portal to facilitate direct online payments

and on successful bank transaction; confirmation e-chellans are automatically issued.

The Secretary, Mines asked the SBI team to study the Odisha model of e-payment system and develop an online transaction system for NMET and DMF fund transfers, integrated with NMET, IBM and State DGM websites.

6. On categorization of projects to be taken up under NMET funding, Shri Harbans Singh, DG, GSI said that the priority for GSI was the national project on aero-geophysical survey over 8.13 lakh sq km Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) area, at an estimated cost Rs.1500 crores.

The Secretary, Mines clarified that since multitude of agencies like GSI, AMD, NGRI, and State agencies generate geophysical/geological data independent of one another; there is a need for a data sharing policy, to avoid duplication of work.

7. Thereafter, the Committee discussed various proposals and suggestions received from States including Karnataka, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The Secretary, Mines stated that the project proposals on mineral exploration received from the States would be considered by NMET after evaluation on a cost sharing basis.

After detailed deliberations, the Executive Committee took the following decisions:

i. A dynamic website would urgently be developed for NMET through the NIC/NICSI, to facilitate fund transfer. Till the NMET website becomes functional, the IBM website might be linked with the NMET Fund Account in SBI. Since IBM is not monitoring royalty payment in case of coal and lignite, a separate modality needs to be worked out.

Action: NMET/NIC/IBM/SBI

ii. A uniform fund transaction module is to be developed by SBI in consultation with NMET and the central payment gateway to be integrated with the existing payment systems in the States. Shri Bhupal Nanda, Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Mines in consultation with State Governments and SBI will finalise the transaction modality.

Action: CCA/NMET/SBI/all State Governments

iii. A data sharing policy is to be evolved to avoid duplication of geo-scientific data generation. GSI is the repository of all baseline geo-scientific data in the country, it is desired that GSI should strengthen its national repository system. The repository cell will maintain mineral exploration data generated by various agencies. **Action:** Stakeholders/ States/NMET

iv. GSI and MECL shall assist the State Governments to upgrade exploration stages from G4/G3 level to G2/G1 level. Subject to the final decision of the Governing Board of NMET, NMET may support by sharing up to 50% of the exploration cost and the State Governments would reimburse this amount to NMET after successful auction of the mineral block.

Action: GSI/MECL/all State Governments

v. GSI to submit proposal on aero-geophysical survey in core OGP area to NMET. **Action:** GSI

vi. MECL to submit proposals for detailed mineral exploration in 100 extended areas of mining to be taken up for auction for the consideration of Governing Board. **Action:** MECL

vii. NGRI to submit project proposals to NMET and spare the services of experts as consultants for geophysical surveys. **Action:** NGRI

viii. On the request of Dept. of Mines & Geology, Rajasthan, it was decided that GSI should consider taking up exploration of deep seated potash deposits in Rajasthan on priority basis. **Action:** GSI

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

The 1st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 8.10.2015, in the Aluminium Hall of Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

List of Members and invitees

	Name & Designation	Organization/contact No/email	Remarks
1.	Shri Balvinder Kumar Secretary	Secy-mines@nic.in	In the Chair
2.	Shri R. Sridharan Additional Secretary	Ministry of Mines	
3.	Dr. Niranjan K. Singh Joint Secretary	Ministry of Mines Jse-mines@nic.in	Member-Secretary, *ex officio*
4.	Shri Sanjeev Sood Joint Secretary	Dept. of Atomic Energy	Member, *ex officio*
5.	Shri D.N. Prasad Adviser (P)	Ministry of Coal advp.moc@nic.in	Member, *ex officio*
6.	Shri Harbans Singh Director General	Geological Survey of India Harbanssingh.gsi@gmail.com	Member, *ex officio*
7.	Shri R.K. Sinha Chief Controller of Mines	Indian Bureau of Mines	Member, *ex officio*
8.	Shri Nilaya Mitash Secretary	Commerce & Industry, Govt. of Karnataka	Member, *ex officio*
9.	Shri Deepak Mohanty Director	Directorate of Mines, Odisha 09437134628 dmohanty@mailcity.com	Member, *ex officio*
10.	Ms Reena Kangale Director	Director, Geology & Mining, Chattisgarh	Member, *ex officio*
11.	Shri Ashok Sharma Addl. Director	Dept. of Mines & Geology, Rajasthan 09214305456, adgjaipur@dmg-raj.org	Member, *ex officio*
12.	Shri. A.K. Singh Professor	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad 09006553502 singhashok0707@gmail.com	Expert Member, Nominated
13.	Dr. B.C. Sarkar Professor	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad 09431121653 bhabeshsarkar2005@gmail.com	Expert Member, Nominated
14.	Dr. Bijendra Singh Chief Scientist	CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad 09849418898; bsingh_ngri@yahoo.co.in	Expert Member, Nominated
15.	Dr. P.R. Golani Deputy Director General	Geological Survey of India, Training Institute, Hyderabad 094140740755;prggsi@gmail.com	Expert Member, Nominated
16.	Shri Bhupal Nanda Chief Controller of Accounts	Ministry of Mines	Invitee
17.	Dr. Joyesh Bagchi Director (Technical)	Ministry of Mines dirtech.mom@nic.in	Invitee
18.	Shri P.S. Parihar Director	Atomic Minerals Division (AMD), Hyderabad pariharps@gmail.com	Invitee

19.	Shri Debasish Sarkar Technical Director	NIC, Ministry of Mines	Invitee
20.	Dr. Dinesh Gupta Addl. Director General	Geological Survey of India 09414201654 adgnmh1b.gsi@gmail.com	Invitee
21.	Ms Mandira Saha DGM	State Bank of India	Invitee
22.	Shri Raj Paul AGM	State Bank of India	Invitee
23.	Shri D.N. Sharma Chief Manager (ebanking)	State Bank of India	Invitee
24.	M. Koshy John Director	NMET, Ministry of Mines 09868228632, koshy.john@gov.in (O) 011-24363199, (Fax) 011-24367641	

Leave of absence was granted to:

	Name & Designation	**Organization/contact No/email**	**Remarks**
1.	Shri U.P. Singh Addl. Secretary	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	Member, *ex officio*
2.	Smt. Sujata Prasad Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser	Ministry of Mines	Member, *ex officio*
3.	Dr. V.P. Dimri	Ex-Director, CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad	Expert Member, Nominated