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Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/47 New Delhi, 29th June, 2021

Subject: Circulation of Minutes of 20th Meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 24th June, 2021.

Please find enclosed the minutes of 20th Meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 24th June, 2021 for your kind perusal.

Action Taken Report on relevant paras may kindly be forwarded to this office.

29/6/2021

[Amit Saran]
Director & HoD, NMET

To,

1. The Secretary, Dept. of Atomic Energy, Anushakti Bhawan, C.S.M. Marg, Mumbai-400001.
2. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
4. The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
5. The Director General, Geological Survey of India, 27, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700016.
6. The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, 2nd Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
7. The Secretary, Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, A.P. Secretariat, 2nd Block, Room No.101, Amravati, Vijayawada-522238.
8. The Secretary, Mineral Resources Dept., Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Naya Raipur, Raipur-492001.
9. The Principal Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal-462004.
10. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Mines & Geology, Govt. of Jharkhand, Second Floor, Above SBI Building, Besides MDI Building, Project Building, Dhurva, Ranchi-834004.
11. Dr. N. P. Nathan, Retd. DDG, GSI, 151/2A, Govinda Pillai Colony, Camp Road, Selaiyur (PO), Chennai-600073.
12. Dr. Hari Shankar Pandalai, Professor, Dept. of Earth Science, IIT, Bombay, Powai, Mumbai-400076.
13. Shri P. S. Parihar, Director (Retd.) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Department of Atomic Energy, A202, Aashima Mall, Hoshangabad Road, Bhopal-462026.

14. Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (Retd.) Business Development & Planning, MECL, 109, KT Nagar, Katol Road, Nagpur-440013.
15. Shri Alok Sharma, Retd. GM & HoD (Exploration), CMPDIL, 402, Lake Garden Apartment, Opposite Gandhi Nagar, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008.

Copy to:

1. The Additional Director General and Chairman, TCC-NMET, Southern Region, GSI Complex, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad-500068.
2. The Director (Technical), Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
3. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MECL, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur-440006.
4. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDIL, Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031.
5. The Dy. Director General, RSAS, GSI, Vasudha Bhavan, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078.
6. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, KIOCL Ltd, Block-II, Koramangala, Sarjapura Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560034.
7. The Chairman-Cum-Managing Director, NMDC Ltd., Khanij Bhavan, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028.
8. The General Manager, Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited, H. No.6-2-915, HMWSSB premises, Rear Block, 3rd Floor, Khairatabad, Hyderabad.
9. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Indirawati Bhawan, Block-4, First & Second Floor Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492002.
10. The GM (Exploration), OMECL, Govt. of Odisha. Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. 3rd Floor, Boyan Bhawan, Unit-3, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001.
11. The Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd., Paryawas Bhawan, Block 'A', IInd floor, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462011.
12. The Director (Dept. of Mines & Geology), Govt. of Telangana, DRDK Building, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad-500022.
13. The Chief Executive Officer, Mineral Exploration Research and Innovation Trust (MERIT), Department of Mines & Geology, 6th Floor, B-Wing, Sri Anjaneya Towers, Ibrahimpatnam, District: Krishna-521456.
14. The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Goa, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa-403521.
15. The Secretary, Dept. of Industries & Commerce (MSME & Mines), Govt. of Karnataka, Room No.136, 1st floor, Vikas Soudha, Bengaluru-560001.
16. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries & Mines), Govt. of Maharashtra, Room No. 114, 1st floor, Industry & Labour Dept., Mantralaya Annexe Building, Mumbai-400032.
17. The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha, Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar-751001.
18. The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Mines, Govt. of Rajasthan, Secretariat, Jaipur-302005.
19. The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Industries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat, Chennai-600009.
20. The Principal Secretary (Industries & Mines), Govt. of Telangana, D-Block, Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad-500022
21. The Director, AMD, Department of Atomic Energy, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

22. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 5th and 6th Floor, D. No.7-104, B- Block, Anjaneya Tower, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada-521456.
23. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, Indravati Bhavan, Block No-4, 2nd Floor, Naya Raipur-492002.
24. The Director of Mines & Geology, Government of Goa, Inst. Menezes Braganza Building, Ground Floor, Panjim, Goa-403001.
25. The Director, Department of Industries, Udyog Bhawan, Bemloe, Shimla-171001.
26. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, J.L. Nehru Udyog Bhawan, 4th Floor, Rail Head Complex, Jammu-80006.
27. The Director (Mines), Directorate of Mines, Government of Jharkhand, Nepal House, Doranda, Ranchi-834001.
28. The Director, Department of Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, No.49, Khanij Bhawan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001.
29. The Director, Directorate of Mining & Geology, Government of Kerala, Kesavadasapuram, Pattom Palace, Thiruvananthapuram-695004.
30. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, 29-A, Khanij Bhawan, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462004.
31. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra, Khanij Bhavan, 27, Shivaji Nagar, Cement Road, Nagpur-440010.
32. The Director, Directorate of Mines, Government of Odisha, Bhu-Bigyan Bhavan, Bhubaneswar-751001
33. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan, Khanij Bhawan, Shastri Circle, Udaipur-313101.
34. The Commissioner of Geology & Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
35. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana, 8th Floor, 'D' Block, B.R.K.R. Bhavan, Tankbund, Hyderabad-500063.
36. The Director, Directorate of Geology & Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 27/8 Raja Ram Mohan Roy Marg, Khanij Bhavan, Lucknow-226001.
37. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Govt. of Uttarakhand, 4 Subhash Road, Secretariat, Dehradun-248001.
38. The Director, Directorate of Mines & Minerals, Government of West Bengal, 4, Abanindranath Tagore Sarani, 2nd floor, Kolkata-700016.
39. The Director, Department of Mines, Minerals & Geology, Government of Sikkim, Secretariat Complex, Tashiling, Gangtok-737101.
40. The Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya, Risa Colony, Shillong-793003.
41. The Director (Geology & Mining), Directorate of Geology, Government of Nagaland, Dimapur-797112.
42. The Managing Director, Odisha Mining Corporation, OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001.

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110001.
2. PSO to Secretary/PS to AS(SL)/PS to JS(UJ)/PS to JS&FA, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)

Minutes of the 20th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 24th June, 2021

The 20th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Alok Tandon, Secretary (Mines) on 24th June, 2021 in Khanij Kaksh, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi through video conference. The list of participants is given in **Annexure-1**.

2. Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi, Joint Secretary, Mines and Member Secretary, EC welcomed all the participants. He informed that the project summary for all the projects recommended by TCC for EC approval have been already circulated to all the EC expert members. The reply to comments and queries received from them have also been obtained from respective exploration agencies and submitted to expert members.

3. Shri Anabalngan P., Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Chhattisgarh suggested that NMET should consider giving advances to the NEAs for the carrying out the sanctioned projects in line with the practice for other government projects. The Secretary, Mines and Chairman, EC, NMET advised NMET to seek the opinion of Integrated Finance Division, Ministry of Mines in this regard.

Following are the agenda points discussed and decisions taken.

4. Agenda 20.1: Approval of minutes of 19th EC meeting held on 26th March, 2021

The minutes of 19th EC was circulated on 31st March, 2021 to all members of Executive Committee (EC).

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD informed that the drilling data available with AMD will not help in assessing the potential of Kajlodiya area for iron exploration as the area explored by AMD is very far from the proposed block. However, a publication of work "Occurrence of uraninite and brannerite in the Samarkiya area, Bhilwara District, Rajasthan [CURRENT SCIENCE, VOL. 92, NO.5, 10 MARCH 2007]" carried out by AMD in Samarkiya area in Pur-Banera basin would be useful.

Decision of EC: EC noted the suggestion and approved the minutes of the 19th EC meeting held on 26th March, 2021.

5. Agenda 20.2: Discussion on ATR of the 19th meeting of Executive Committee

The Action Taken Report on minutes of the 19th EC meeting was presented.

Decision of EC: EC noted the action taken reports on minutes of 19th EC meeting.

6. Agenda 20.3: Approval of new project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC)

The Chairman, TCC, NMET informed that 29th TCC meeting held on 11th & 12th March, 2021 and 30th TCC meeting held on 08th and 09th June, 2021 through video conferencing recommended a total of 6 new project proposals [5 nos. of mineral exploration project proposals and one implementation of National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR)] for approval of Executive Committee (EC) with estimated cost of **₹56.28 Cr**. The details of the all new project proposals recommended for approval of EC are as follows:

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (₹Cr. including GST)
Implementing Agency: GSI					
1	Implementation of National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR).		--	18	34.08
Implementing Agency: MECL					
2	Preliminary Exploration for Copper Ore in Dhanota Block, Southern Khetri Copper Belt, District- Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.	Copper	G3	12	4.03
3	Reconnaissance Survey for Copper in Mincheri Block (81.615 sq. km), District- Ballari, Karnataka.	Copper	G4	12	2.04
Implementing Agency: CMPDI					
4	Preliminary Exploration for Rare Metals and REE in Bisariya-Bansaruli- Jamtoli Area, District: Ranchi, Jharkhand.	REE	G3	18	3.99
5	General exploration for coal in Marwatola Sector-I & II Block, Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Umaria, Madhya Pradesh.	Coal	G2	18	7.02
6	General exploration for coal in Marwatola Sector-III & IV Block, Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Umaria, Madhya Pradesh.	Coal	G2	16	5.12
				Total	**56.28**

I. Project at S. No.- 1: Implementation of National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR).

Shri Naresh Nautiyal, MECL (Retd.) suggested to examine whether the project will fall under the objectives of NMET and approval from Governing Body (GB) of NMET is required. He also suggested to include all the exploration data of coal and lignite in the data repository of NGDR.

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD informed that it is an excellent project and GSI should attempt to adhere to the time schedule of the project implementation. He also suggested that for Open Source Software development and data security, a responsible expert should be engaged.

Shri Alok Sharma, CMPDI (Retd.) suggested that this is information technology project and GSI should have a provision to upgrade to new technology after 3-5 years by GSI. The observation was noted DG, GSI was requested to take further action as appropriate.

Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi, Joint Secretary, Mines and Member Secretary, EC informed that the NMET objectives include facilitating exploration activities and this project will be facilitating exploration activities by providing baseline geoscience data for regional and detailed exploration. The idea is to integrate and manage all the geological data available in the country for mineral exploration.

II. Project at S. No.- 2: Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Copper Ore in Dhanota Block, Southern Khetri Copper Belt, District- Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines opined that since the G4 exploration has been already completed in this block and as per the Mineral (Auction) Second Amendment Rules, 2021, the State Government should make attempt to auction the block as a Composite Licence.

III. Project at S. No.- 3: Reconnaissance Survey (G4) for Copper in Mincheri Block (81.615 sq. km), District- Ballari, Karnataka.

Shri Naresh Nautiyal, MECL (Retd.) suggested that the scout drilling to be done after the chemical analysis of the surface samples.

Shri P. S. Parihar, Director (Retd.) AMD informed that the scout drilling for 5 boreholes are justified and as per Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015, in G4 Scout drilling, if necessary may be given.

Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi, Joint Secretary, Mines and Member Secretary, EC informed that the work progress of the project will be reviewed by TCC and as per the decision of TCC, drilling will be carried out for the project.

IV. Project at S. No.- 4: Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Rare Metals and REE in Bisariya- Bansaruli- Jamtoli Area, District: Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director, AMD informed that this is specialized project and the available data need to be studied thoroughly before any exploration work. The G4 exploration had been done by GSI for this area. This project requires technical capability and expertise in REE and CMPDIL does not have any experience in REE exploration.

Dr. Hari Shankar Pandalai, Professor, IIT, Mumbai suggested that the project may be carried out by either GSI or AMD after review of all the available baseline geoscience data as the CMPDI doesn't have the capability to carry out the Rare Metals and REE exploration.

Shri Peeyush Kumar, Director (Tech), Ministry of Coal submitted that CMPDIL has considerable expertise in coal exploration and it should be allowed to explore other minerals.

Dr. N. P. Nathan, Dy. Director General, GSI (Retd.) suggested that the area is promising and potential for REE exploration. The project is quite promising and must be undertaken.

The Secretary, Mines and Chairman, EC, NMET advised AMD and GSI to review this project after studying all the available data for Rare Metals & REE mineralization in the block area.

V. Project at S. No.- 5: General exploration (G2) for coal in Marwatola Sector-I & II Block, Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Umaria, Madhya Pradesh.

VI. Project at S. No.- 6: General exploration (G2) for coal in Marwatola Sector-III & IV Block, Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Umaria, Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Naresh Nautiyal, MECL (Retd.) suggested that the economic viability of the project should be considered as the coal seams are very thin and grade of the coal is also not promising. Moreover, 50% block area is under forest cover. He also suggested that CMPDI should submit a note on the economic viability for coal mining in Marwatola Sector-I & II and Marwatola Sector-III & IV blocks.

Shri Peeyush Kumar, Director (Tech), Ministry of Coal informed that the cost of transportation of coal is very high. The mining of coal and it's use in the state is needed, therefore, requested the EC to consider the importance of the project proposal.

The Secretary, Mines and Chairman, EC, NMET suggested that for the benefit of state and economic viability, CMPDI should complete the work within 12 months.

Decisions of EC

- The projects at **S. No. 1, 3, 5 and 6** [NGDR, Mincheri Copper block, Marwatola Sector-I & II coal block and Marwatola Sector-III & IV coal block] were approved with estimated cost of **₹48.26 Cr.**
- The project at S. No. 2 (Dhanota Copper Block): decision was deferred.
- The project proposal at S. No. 4 (Rare Metal & REE): AMD and GSI to review this project after studying all the available data for Rare Metals & REE mineralization.
- Suggestion given by Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Chhattisgarh regarding giving advances to the NEAs for the carrying out the sanctioned projects in line with the practice for other government projects be examined in consultation with IFD, Ministry of Mines.

(Action: GSI/AMD/NMET)

7. Agenda 4: Time overrun in the ongoing projects executed by Exploration Agencies through NMET funding.

MERIT, AP and GSI have requested for time over run for the ongoing projects as work could not be carried out since implementation of lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, the TCC in its 30th meeting has recommended a time over run for 5 ongoing projects and approval by EC. The details are given in **annexure-2.**

For the extended period, the payment will be as per Schedule of Charges applicable during the original approved period of the project.

Decision of EC: EC discussed the matter and approved the time overrun for projects (Annexure-2) without cost overrun.

(Action: NMET)

8. Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Shri Amit Saran, Director & HoD NMET.

Annexure-1

List of Participants in 20th EC Meeting held on 24th June, 2021 at Khanij Kaksh, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi

S. No.	Name & Designation	Organization/ email	Remarks
1	Shri Alok Tandon, Secretary	Ministry of Mines, secy_mines@nic.in	In chair
2	Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Addl. Secretary, Mines & CG, IBM	Indian Bureau of Mines, cg@ibm.gov.in	Member, *Ex officio*
3	Shri Anabalgan, P., Secretary	Mineral Resources Department Chhattisgarh, secy-mrd.cg@gov.in	Member, Ex officio
4	Shri Upendra C. Joshi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines	Ministry of Mines, ucjoshi.88@gov.in	Member Secretary, *Ex officio*
5	Shri R. S. Garkhal, Director General	Geological Survey of India, dg.gsi@gov.in	Member, *Ex officio*
6	Dr. D. K. Sinha, Director	AMD, Dept. of Atomic Energy, director.amd@gov.in	Member, *Ex officio*
7	Shri Bhabani Prasad Pati, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Coal bppati@ifs.nic.in	Member, Ex officio
8	Shri Vijay Kumar Ojha, Director (Geology), Department of Mines and Geology,	Govt. of Jharkhand, dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in	State Representative
9	Dr. Hari Shankar Pandalai, Professor, IIT Mumbai	Exploration Expert, hspandalai9@gmail.com	Nominated Member
10	Shri P. S. Parihar, Director (Retd.), AMD	Exploration Expert, pariharps1954@gmail.com	Nominated Member
11	Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (BD&P) (Retd.), MECL	Exploration Expert, nautiyal.naresh5@gmail.com	Nominated Member
12	Shri Alok Sharma, GM & HoD (Expl) (Retd), CMPDIL	Exploration Expert, aloksharma360@gmail.com	Nominated Member
13	Dr. N. P. Nathan, DDG, GSI (Retd.)	Exploration Expert, Npnathan55@yahoo.co.in	Nominated Member
14	Shri Janardan Prasad, Addl. Director General and Chairman, TCC	Geological Survey of India janardan.prasad@gsi.gov.in	Invitee
15	Shri Amit Saran, Director	Ministry of Mines, amit.saran@nic.in	HoD, NMET
16	Shri Peeyush Kumar, CM (Director-T)	Ministry of Coal, dirtech.moc@nic.in	Invitee
17	Shri A R Sengupta, Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Mines, ar.sengupta@nic.in	IFD, Mines Representative

Annexure-2

List of the projects for extension of timeline

S. No.	Block/Project	Implementing Agency	Actual Schedule date of completion	Revised/ approved Scheduled Timeline	Required timeline extension (upto)	Status of Exploration work/Geological Report
(a)	**List of the projects for extension of timeline regarding the Multi Sensor Aero-geophysical Survey executed by GSI**					
1	Multi Sensor Aerogeophysical Survey Block-11 [M/s McPhar International Pvt. Ltd]	GSI	30/09/2020	31/03/2021	**30/06/2021**	Draft report has been submitted.
(b)	**List of the mineral exploration projects for extension of timeline**					
2	General exploration (G2) for limestone in Mandipadu Limestone Block, Dachepalli (M), District-Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.	MERIT, AP	18/04/2019	18/01/2020 12th EC meeting	**31/10/2021**	Work in progress.
3	General exploration (G2) for limestone in Mutyalampadu-Tangeda Limestone Block, Dachepalli (M), District-Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.	MERIT, AP	18/04/2019	18/01/2020 12th EC meeting	**31/10/2021**	Work in progress.
4	General exploration (G2) for limestone in Tangeda Limestone Block, Dachepalli (M), District-Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.	MERIT, AP	18/04/2019	18/01/2020 12th EC meeting	**31/10/2021**	Work in progress.
5	General exploration (G2) for limestone in Ramapuram Limestone Block, Dachepalli (M), District- Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.	MERIT, AP	18/04/2019	18/10/2019 12th EC meeting	**31/10/2021**	Work in progress.

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