Only through e-mail

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

F.No.6/2/2015-NMET/ 30 New Delhi, 10th April 2023

Subject: Circulation of minutes of 29th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 31st March 2023

Please find enclosed the minutes of 29th meeting of Executive Committee of NMET held on 31st March 2023 for your kind perusal.

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

10.04.23

[Vivek Kumar Sharma]
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, 2" Floor, Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
7. The Principal Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal- 462004.
8. The Principal Secretary, Industries, Energy and Labour Dept. 114 Annex Building Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400032.
9. The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Mines and Petroleum Main Building Secretariat, Jaipur- 302005.
10. The Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Dept. Industries Department Secretariat, Chennai- 600009.
11. Shri Alok Sharma, (Retd.) GM &HoD (Exploration), CMPDIL, 402, Lake Garden, Kanke Road, Ranchi- 834008.
12. Shri NareshNautiyal, Head (Business Development & Planning) (Retd.), MECL, 109, KT Nagar, Katol Road, Nagpur- 440013.

13. Dr. Yamuna Singh, Scientist-H, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (Retd.), Flat G-7, Block G, Rainbow Vistas Rock Garden, Opp- IDL, Green Hills Road, Sanathnagar PO, Moosapet, Hyderabad- 500018.

14. Dr. Laxman Singh Shekhawat, Dy. Director General (Retd.), Geological Survey of India, 695 Shanti Nagar (Road No-3), Near Durgapura Railway Station, Durgapura, Jaipur- 302018.

15. Dr. Sahendra Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Geology, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad- 826004.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (Mines), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Secretary (Geology and Mining), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Minerals, Government of Assam.
4. The Principal Secretary-cum-Mines Commissioner, Government of Bihar.
5. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries), Government of Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Principal Secretary (Industry and Mines), Government of Gujarat.
9. The Commissioner Secretary (Industries and Commerce), Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
10. The Secretary (Industries, Mines and Geology), Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Secretary, (Industries and Commerce), Government of Karnataka.
12. The Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala.
13. The Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh .
14. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Commissioner and Secretary, Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Commissioner & Secretary, Geology and Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Principal Secretary (Steel and Mines), Government of Odisha.
18. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology, Government of Punjab.
19. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Principal Secretary (Industries and Mines), Government of Telangana.
22. The Secretary (Mines and Geology), Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Principal Secretary (Mines), Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Secretary (Industry, Commerce and Enterprises), Government of West Bengal.
25. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.
26. The Principal Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Sikkim.
27. The Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura.
28. The Secretary, Commerce and Industries, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Secretary, Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Government of Manipur.

30.The Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Assam.
4. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Bihar.
5. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Chhattisgarh.
6. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Goa.
7. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat.
8. The Director, Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
9. The Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
10. The Director (Mines), Directorate of Mines, Government of Jharkhand.
11. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka .
12. The Director, Directorate of Mining and Geology, Government of Kerala.
13. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Madhya Pradesh.
14. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Maharashtra.
15. The Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
16. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Nagaland.
17. The Director, Directorate of Geology, Government of Odisha.
18. The Director, Directorate of Mines and Minerals, Government of Punjab.
19. The Director, Mines and Geology Directorate, Government of Rajasthan.
20. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Tamil Nadu.
21. The Director of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana.
22. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
23. The Director, Geology and Mining Unit, Government of Uttarakhand.
24. The Director, Directorate of Mines and Minerals, Government of West Bengal.
25. The Director, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Ladakh.
26. The Director, Department of Mines, Minerals and Geology, Government of Sikkim
27. The Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura
28. The Director, Directorate of Geology and Mineral Resource, Government of Mizoram.
29. The Director, Department of Trade, Commerce and Industries, Government of Manipur.
30. The Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana.

Copy to:

1. The Additional Director General and Chairman, TCC-NMET, Southern Region, GSI Complex, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad-500068.
2. The Director, AMD, Department of Atomic Energy, AMD Complex, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

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 Managing Director, Odisha Mining Corporation, OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 .

Copy for information to:

PSO to Secretary/PPS to AS(SL)/PS to JS&FA, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, NewDelhi-110001.

Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

Minutes of the 29th meeting of Executive Committee (EC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 31st March 2023

The 29th meeting of EC of NMET was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary (Mines) on 31st March, 2023 in Khanij Kaksh, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi in hybrid mode. The list of participants is given in **Annexure-1.**

Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Mines welcomed all the participants to the meeting. The meeting proceeded with agenda wise discussion.

Shri Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET presented the agenda points for the meeting.

1. Approval of minutes of 28th meeting of EC held on 16th March, 2023.

The minutes of the 28th EC meeting held on 16th March, 2023 were circulated on 23rd March, 2023. No comments from the members have been received.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the minutes of the 28th meeting of EC held on 16th March, 2023.

2. Action Taken Report (ATR) on minutes of 28th EC meeting held on 16th March, 2023.

The ATR on minutes of the 28th meeting of EC held on 16th March, 2023 were presented in the meeting.

Shri Vivek Sharma, Director & HoD, NMET informed that necessary action has been taken on decisions of the minutes of 28th EC meeting.

Discussion: Chairman, EC appreciated the efforts and achievements of NMET Secretariat for disbursement of advances to the exploration agencies and issuing OMs within a short period of time.

Decision of EC:

EC accepted the action taken reports on minutes of 28th meeting of EC held on 16th March, 2023.

The details are given in **Annexure-2.**

3. Approval of new project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC).

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG and Chairman, TCC, NMET presented the details of projects recommended for approval of EC. He informed that TCC in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended 04 mineral exploration projects with an estimated cost of **₹ 955.44 Lakh** and gave in-principle approval for 7 projects for financial assistance with an estimated cost of **₹ 622.11 Lakh** for approval by EC subject to restriction of cost provided by GSI/IBM or the DMGs whichever is lower.

The mineral exploration projects are of different commodities {Fe-Mn & associated minrals (1), Potash (1), and Ni-Co-PGE (2)}.

The financial assistance proposals recommended by TCC for the procurements of instruments/equipment/software have been submitted by DMG, Bihar (1); DMG, Goa (1); DGM, UT of J&K (1); DGM, Madhya Pradesh (1); DGM, Mizoram (1); DGM, Nagaland (1) and DMG, West Bengal (1).

The detailed discussion and EC decision for project proposals recommended for approval of EC are as follows:

3.1 Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Iron, Manganese and Associated Minerals in Talwa Block (80.50 sq.km.) Districts- Jabalpur And Katni, Madhya Pradesh. [Implementing agency-MECL]

Discussion:

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG, GSI & Chairman, TCC, NMET discussed the technical and financial aspects of project. He informed that geological mapping, trenching, chemical analysis and laboratory studies will be carried out in an area of 80.50 sq.km. It was also informed that outcome of the project will be reviewed after six months

EC decision:

EC approved the project with an estimated cost of **₹ 46.75 Lakh** and timeline of **10 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.2 Preliminary Exploration (G3 stage) for Potash in Bharusari North Block (10 sq. km.), Northwestern Part of Rajasthan, District: Hanumangarh, Rajasthan. [Implementing agency-MECL]

Discussion:

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG GSI & Chairman, TCC, NMET discussed the technical and financial aspects of project. TCC recommended drilling of 5 nos. of boreholes with a total of 3500 m of drilling with in an area of 10 sq. km. will be carried out.

He informed that the entire area has been categorized based on high or low residual gravity and magnetic anomalies. Nine different zones have been delineated based on the residual anomalies. It has also been informed that the potash mineralization in Bharusari Block is restricted to three different halite cycles i.e., H1, H2 and H4 in the Hanseran Evaporite Group (HEG).

He informed the committee that potash zones had been calculated at 1% K, 2% K and 3%K and 5% K Cut Off with workable thickness 1.00 m by MECL and the zones have been classified into 11 major bands, i.e., K1A, K1B, K1C, K2A, K2B, K2C, K2D, K2E, K4A, K4B AND K4C bands in the area. The project will be reviewed after 6 months.

On request of Shri Subodh Aggarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Rajasthan, Chairman, EC directed to complete the exploration work within 6 months as the total drilling was only 3,500 m. A review of the progress of work will be done after 3 months.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with an estimated cost of **₹739.70 Lakh** and timeline of less than **6 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.3 Preliminary Exploration, G3 (Phase-I) For Ni, Co, PGE and associated minerals in J.C. Pura Mafic-Ultramafic Schist Belt near Rampura and Gollarahatti Block, Hassan District, Karnataka. [Implementing agency- DGM, Karnataka (M/s GeoExpore Pvt. Ltd.)]

Discussion:

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG GSI & Chairman, TCC, NMET discussed the technical and financial aspects of project. He informed that geological mapping (1:2,000 scale), trenching, chemical sampling, gravity survey (200 stations) and laboratory studies will be carried out during the first phase of the project, if any encouraging result are achieved the project will be upgraded for its Phase II. A review of the progress of work will be done after 6 months.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with an estimated cost of **₹ 82.87 Lakh** and timeline of **10 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.4 Preliminary Exploration, G3 (Phase-I) in Block 'A' For Ni-Cr-PGE-Au in Mafic-Ultramafic Bodies in Hadanur-Tagadur Belt, Mandya District, Karnataka. [Implementing agency- DGM, Karnataka (M/s GeoExpore Pvt. Ltd.)]

Discussion:

Shri Janardan Prasad, ADG GSI & Chairman, TCC, NMET discussed the technical and financial aspects of project. He informed that GSI has carried out G4 stage exploration for Nickel, Cobalt, Copper and PGE in J.C. Pura–Antaraghatta Belt, Hassan and Tumkur Districts, Karnataka and reported presence of nickel (20 to 3515 ppm), chromium (15 to 16,100 ppm),

cobalt (between 35 and 330), copper (from 10 to 340 ppm) and PGE (9.5 to 158 ppm) from the area.

He informed that geological mapping (1:4,000 scale), trenching, chemical sampling, magnetic survey (245 stations) and laboratory studies will be carried out during the first phase of the project, if any encouraging result are achieved, the project will be upgraded for its Phase II. A review of the progress of work will be done after 6 months.

EC decision:

EC approved the project with an estimated cost of **₹ 86.12 Lakh** and timeline of **10 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.5 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DMG, Bihar or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1.	Handheld GPS	5	30,000	1,50,000
2.	Brunton Compass	5	8,000	40,000
3.	Geologist's Hammer	5	8,000	40,000
4.	Digital Camera	2	10,000	20,000
5.	GIS Software	1 license	13,00,000	13,00,000
Total				**₹ 15,50,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 15.50 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.6 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DMG, Goa or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1.	DGPS	1	16,00,000	16,00,000

2.	Total Station	1	6,96,000	6,96,000
3.	GIS Software	1	13,00,000	13,00,000
Total				**₹ 35,96,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 35.96 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.7 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DGM, UT of Jammu & Kashmir or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1.	Handheld XRF	2	9,50,000	19,00,000
2.	Digital Camera	2	1,50,000	3,00,000
3.	Brunton Compass	20	2,700	54,000
4.	Geological Hammer	20	2,000	40,000
5.	Handheld GPS	20	73,500	14,70,000
6.	AAS	1	80,00,000	80,00,000
7.	GIS Software	1	13,00,000	13,00,000
8.	Total Station	2	6,96,000	13,92,000
Total				**₹ 1,44,56,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 144.56 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.8 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DGM, Madhya Pradesh or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1	Handheld XRF	5	30,00,000	1,50,00,000
2	Handheld GPS	5	35,000	1,75,000
3	Geologist Hammer	10	6,000	60,000
4	Pulveriser	2	50,000	1,00,000
5	Core Splitter	4	2,00,000	8,00,000
Total				**₹ 1,61,35,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 161.35 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.9 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DGM, Mizoram or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

It has been conveyed to EC that procurement proposal of ₹ 309.32 Lakh for procurement to DGM, Mizoram has already been approved by EC in its 27th meeting held on 10th January, 2023. The proposal included WD-XRF at the cost of ₹40,00,000/-. However, DGM, Mizoram has submitted the revised cost for purchasing WD-XRF at an estimated cost of ₹1,50,00,000/- and requested to accept the revised proposal for procurement of WD-XRF instead of the proposal approved in 27th EC.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1	GIS Software	3	15,33,000	45,99,000
2	WD-XRF	1	1,50,00,000	1,50,00,000
Total				**₹ 1,95,99,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 195.99 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.10 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DGM, Nagaland or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

It has been conveyed to EC that procurement proposal of ₹ 480.46 Lakhs for DGM, Nagaland has already been for approved by EC in its 28th meeting held on 16th March, 2023.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1	Digital Camera	2	1,50,000	3,00,000
2	Brunton Compass	10	10,000	1,00,000
3	Geological Hammer	10	10,000	1,00,000
4	Handheld GPS	10	85,000	8,50,000
5	Corel DRAW	1	75,000	75,000
Total				**₹ 14,25,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 14.25 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

3.11 Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.

EC was informed that following equipment have been recommended by the TCC with estimated cost submitted by DMM, West Bengal or restricted to the cost provided by GSI.

S. No.	Item	Qty.	Estimated cost per unit (₹)	Total Estimated cost (₹)
1	Handheld GPS	10	35,000	3,50,000
2	Binocular Polarizing Microscope with camera and software	01	24,00,000	24,00,000
3	GIS Software	02	13,00,000	26,00,000
4	Geological Hammer	10	10,000	1,00,000
Total				**₹ 54,50,000**

EC decision:

EC approved the project with estimated cost of **₹ 54.50 Lakh** and timeline of **12 months**.

(Action: NMET)

4. Extension of timeline for ongoing projects: TCC in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended timeline extension for following ongoing projects:

4.1 Extension of timeline in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Limestone in Periyakurichi Block (1.88 sq. km) in Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu. [Implementing Agency: MECL]

EC was informed that TCC committee in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended timeline extension of 3 months in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Limestone in Periyakurichi Block (1.88 sq. km) in Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu for approval of EC.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the timeline extension for 3 months up to 30.04.2023.

(Action: NMET)

4.2 Extension of timeline in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Keluamali block, District - Kalahandi, Odisha. [Implementing Agency: OMECL]

EC was informed that TCC committee in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended timeline extension of 10 months in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Keluamali block, District - Kalahandi, Odisha for approval of EC.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the timeline extension for 10 months up to 31.10.2023.

(Action: NMET)

4.3 Extension of timeline in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Majhingamali block, District – Rayagada & Kalahandi, Odisha. [Implementing Agency: OMECL]

EC was informed that TCC committee in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended timeline extension of 12 months in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Majhingamali block, District – Rayagada & Kalahandi, Odisha for approval of EC.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the timeline extension for 12 months up to 31.12.2023.

(Action: NMET)

4.4 Extension of timeline in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Tarhapani (West) block, District - Koraput, Odisha. [Implementing Agency: OMECL]

EC was informed that TCC committee in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended timeline extension of 5 months in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Tarhapani (West) block, District - Koraput, Odisha for approval of EC.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the timeline extension for 5 months up to 31.05.2023.

(Action: NMET)

4.5 Extension of timeline in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Karnapodikonda block in Narayanpatna Tehsil, District - Koraput, Odisha. [Implementing Agency: OMECL]

EC was informed that TCC committee in its 51st meeting held on 27-28 March, 2023 recommended timeline extension of 9 months in respect of Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Tarhapani (West) block, District - Koraput, Odisha for approval of EC.

Decision of EC:

EC approved the timeline extension for 9 months up to 30.09.2023.

(Action: NMET)

Discussion (additional points):

1. Chairman, EC asked NMET cell to conduct a review of the procurement proposals approved by EC to different states and update the status of the same in the next EC meeting.

(Action: NMET/TCC)

2. Chairman, EC asked Chairman, TCC to critically review the delay in the execution of exploration projects by EAs and recommend whether some disincentives could be introduced.

(Action: NMET/TCC)

3. Dr. L.S. Shekhawat suggested creating an inventory of the boreholes drilled in Nagaur-Ganganagar basin for Potash exploration, so that a complete study of the drilled boreholes can be done and it made into a report for the entire basin.

(Action: GSI)

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

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Annexure-1

List of participants in 29th EC Meeting held on 31st March, 2023 at Khanij Kaksh, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi

S. No.	Name & Designation	Organization/email	Remarks
1.	Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, IAS Secretary	Ministry of Mines secy_mines@nic.in	Chairperson
2.	Shri Sanjay Lohiya, IAS Additional Secretary, Mines & CG, IBM	Ministry of Mines sanjay.lohiya@gov.in	Member Secretary, *Ex officio*
3.	Shri Subodh Aggarwal, IAS Addl. Chief Secretary, GoR	Department of Mines and Petroleum Government of Rajasthan	Member
4.	Shri S. Krishnan, IAS Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Chennai	Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Dept., Government of Tamil Nadu; geomines@nic.in	Member
5.	Dr. S. Raju, Director General	Geological Survey of India dg.gsi@gov.in	Member, *Ex officio*
6.	Shri Nikunj Shrivastava, IAS Principal Secretary, Mineral Resource Department, GoMP	Mineral Resource Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh	Member
7.	Ms. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor	Ministry of Coal and Mines	Member, *Ex officio*
8.	Shri B. Saravanan, Director Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research	AMD, Dept. of Atomic Energy, director.amd@gov.in	Representative of Dept. of Atomic Energy
9.	Shri Anandji Prasad, Advisor (P)	Ministry of Coal	Representative of Ministry of Coal
10.	Shri R. K. Kureel, Director	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas rk.kureel@nic.in	Representative of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
11.	Shri Alok Sharma, GM & HoD (Exploration) (Retd), CMPDIL	Exploration Expert, aloksharma360@gmail.com	Nominated Member
12.	Shri Naresh Nautiyal, Head (Retd.), MECL	Exploration Expert, nautiyal.naresh5@gmail.com	Nominated Member
13.	Dr. L. S. Shekhawat, DDG (Retd.)	Exploration Expert, shekhawatls57@gmail.com	Nominated Member
14.	Dr. Yamuna Singh, (Retd.), Scientist-H, AMD	Exploration Expert, yamunasingh1957@gmail.com	Nominated Member
15.	Dr. Sahendra Singh Associate Professor	Exploration Expert, sahendra@iitism.ac.in	Nominated Member
16.	Shri Janardan Prasad, Addl. Director General & Chairman, TCC	Geological Survey of India janardan.prasad@gsi.gov.in	Invitee
17.	Shri Vivek Kumar Sharma, Director	Ministry of Mines vksharma.ofb@gov.in	HoD, NMET

Annexure-2

Action Taken Report (ATR) on minutes of 28th EC meeting of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) held on 16th March, 2023.

Agenda	Decision of 28th EC meeting	Action taken
3	**Nomination of a representative of Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) in Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** **Decision of EC:** EC accepted the nomination of Shri K.L. Mundra, Head, RMRE, AMD, Department of Atomic Energy as representative of AMD in Technical cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET.	OM issued on 24.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
4	**Reimbursement of Net Present Value (NPV) for forest permission for Reconnaissance Survey for Coal in North of Chulaha Bhulia block, Sohagpur Coalfield, District: Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh. [Implementing agency: CMPDI]** **Decision of EC:** EC accorded the approval of ₹4,48,577/- (Rupees Four Lakh forty-eight thousand five hundred and seventy-seven only) for reimbursement of NPV for forest clearance from NMET fund	Sanction Letter issued on 24.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
5	**Revision of charges towards "Preparation of Exploration Proposal" in the Schedule of Charges (SoC) of NMET.** **Decision of EC:** EC accorded its approval for revision of SoC for Preparation of Exploration Proposal to "2% of approved project cost subject to a maximum of ₹5 lakh".	OM issued on 27.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
6	**Financial sanction of revised cost of "Preliminary exploration (G3) for Basemetal (Cu, Pb, Zn) in Chintakuntala block (5.00 sq. km), District: Nalgonda, Telangana".** **Decision of EC:** EC accorded its approval for the differential amount of ₹1,88,257.00/- (Rs. One lakh eighty-eight thousand two hundred and fifty-seven only) against Geological Report Preparation charges in Chintakuntala Block, Nalgonda District, Telangana.	Sanction order issued on 28.03.2023 **Action: Complete**

7	**Approval of new project proposals recommended by the Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) during review meeting of 48th TCC held on 13th January, 2023 and 49th & 50th TCC meeting held during January and March, 2023.**	
7.1	Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Coal in Khapia Block, North Karanpura Coalfield District Harzaribagh Jharkhand (Block Area 19.10 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.61 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months). [Implementing agency: CMPDI] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹1.61 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	Financial concurrence received from IFD on 29.03.2023. Payment will be made after budget allocation in PFMS in first week of April, 2023. **Action: In Progress**
7.2	Preliminary exploration (G3) for Potash in Lakhasar East block, Lakhasar-Sub Basin, North Western Part of Rajasthan, District: Bikaner, Rajasthan. (Block Area 7.16 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹15.51 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-18 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹15.51 Crore and timeline of 18 months.	
7.3	Preliminary exploration (G3) for limestone in Kiranagi-1 and Kiranagi-2 block, Bhima Basin, District: Gulbarga, Karnataka. (Block Area 11.41 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.28 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-10 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹1.28 Crore and timeline of 10 months.	OM issued on 27.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
7.4	Preliminary exploration (G3) for copper and associated minerals in Kalasapura block, District: Chikkamagluru, Karnataka. (Block Area 15.00 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.47 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC deferred the project and asked to check the viability of the mineral resource for mining.	EC deferred the project. No action required.

7.5	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Polymetals (Cu, Au, Ag) in Miregaon block, Districts: Bhandara and Gondiya, Maharashtra. (Block Area 40.769 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.1 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹1.1 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.6	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for REE and Rare Metals (RM) mineralization in Khairlanji Block, Part of Districts: Balaghat & Seoni, State–Madhya Pradesh. (Block Area 123.04 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹0.69 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹0.69 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	OM issued on 27.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
7.7	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for REE in Rudrawathi Block, District- Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu.(Block Area 126 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹0.72 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹0.72 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.8	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for REE in Sarnu Block, Barmer District, Rajasthan. (Block Area 118.10 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹0.70 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months, [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹0.70 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	Financial concurrence received from IFD on 29.03.2023. Payment will be made after budget allocation in PFMS in first week of April, 2023. **Action: In Progress**
7.9	Reconnaissance survey (G4) for Iron and associated minerals in Salaiya, Districts: Jabalpur, Katni & Umaria, State: Madhya Pradesh. (Block Area-110.56 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹0.50 Crore and Scheduled Timeline- 12 months] [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹0.50 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.10	Preliminary Exploration for Limestone in Naddisinur-1 and 2 Blocks, Bhima basin, District-Gulbarga	

	(Kalaburagi), Karnataka. (Block Area-12.09 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.38 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-10 months) [Implementing agency-MECL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹1.38 Crore and timeline of 10 months.	
7.11	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for polymetalic mineralization (Au, Cu, Ni, Co) in Dharwar Shimoga Schist Belt of Nagavanda area Dhavangere, Haveri and Shimoga District, Karnataka. (Block Area-63.62 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.48 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months) [Implementing agency-KIOCL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹1.48 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	OM issued on 27.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
7.12	Preliminary exploration (G3) for amalgamated limestone blocks in Jevargi area, Kalaburagi district, Karnataka. (Block area- 20 sq. Km., Estimated Cost ₹2.33 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months) [Implementing agency-KIOCL] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹2.33 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	Financial concurrence received from IFD on 29.03.2023. Payment will be made after budget allocation in PFMS in first week of April, 2023. **Action: In Progress**
7.13	Preliminary exploration (G3) for limestone in Itga block, District: Kalaburagi, Karnataka. (Block Area-10.60 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹1.25 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-12 months] [Implementing agency- DMG, Karnataka] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹1.25 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.14	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Ni & PGE prospect block in Limbdi-Meghpar Titoi area, Jamnagar District, Gujarat (Block Area-200 sq.km., Estimated Cost ₹2.63 Crore and Scheduled Timeline-18 months) [Implementing agency-Geovale Services Pvt. Ltd.] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with an estimated cost of ₹2.63 Crore and timeline of 18 months.	OM issued on 27.03.2023 **Action: Complete**

7.15	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DMG, Sikkim] **EC decision:** EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹2.07 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	Financial concurrence received from IFD on 29.03.2023. Payment will be made after budget allocation in PFMS in first week of April, 2023. **Action: In Progress**
7.16	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DGM, Nagaland] **EC decision:** EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹4.81 Crore (₹2.77 Crore + ₹2.04 Crore) and timeline of 12 months.	
7.17	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment /instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DGM, Arunachal Pradesh] **EC decision:** EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹0.81 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.18	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/laboratory equipment /instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DGM, UT of Ladakh] **EC decision:** EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹2.06 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.19	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DGM, Uttar Pradesh] **EC decision:** EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹0.77 Crore (₹0.07 Crore + ₹0.70 Crore) and timeline of 12 months.	
7.20	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DGM, Chhattisgarh] **EC decision:**	

	EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹4.78 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.21	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DGM, Tamil Nadu] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹4.99 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
7.22	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/ instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities. [DMG, Jharkhand] **EC decision**: EC approved the project with estimated cost of ₹5.28 Crore and timeline of 12 months.	
8	Extension of timeline in respect of Blocks-6 and 8 of Multi-Sensor Aero-geophysical Surveys over Obvious Geological Potential areas of India. [Implementing Agency: GSI] **EC decision**: EC approved the timeline extension for Blocks - 6 & 8 of Multi-Sensor Aero-geophysical Surveys over OGP areas up to 31.03.2024, without any cost escalation.	OM issued on 27.03.2023 **Action: Complete**
9	Extension of project contract of TS-QC of heliborne geophysical survey without any cost revision. [Implementing Agency: GSI] **EC decision**: EC approved the timeline extension for project up to May, 2024 without any cost escalation.	

List of projects approved for funding through NMET in 29th EC meeting of NMET held on 31.03.2023

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (₹ Lakh Including GST)
A. Implementing Agency: MECL					
1.	Reconnaissance Survey (G4 Stage) for Iron, Manganese and Associated Minerals in Talwa Block (80.50 sq.km.) Districts- Jabalpur And Katni, Madhya Pradesh.	Iron, Manganese & associated minerals	G4	10	**46.75**
2.	Preliminary Exploration (G3 stage) for Potash in Bharusari North Block (10 sq. km.), Northwestern Part of Rajasthan, District: Hanumangarh, Rajasthan.	Potash	G3	06	**739.70**
				Sub Total-B	**786.45**
B. Implementing Agency: DGM, Karnataka (M/s GeoExpore Pvt. Ltd.)					
3.	Preliminary Exploration, G3 (Phase-I) For Ni, Co, PGE and associated minerals in J.C. Pura Mafic-Ultramafic Schist Belt near Rampura and Gollarahatti Block, Hassan District, Karnataka (Block area- 2 sq. km.)	Ni, Co, PGE and associated minerals	G3	10	**82.87**
4.	Preliminary Exploration, G3 (Phase-I) in Block 'A' For Ni-Cr-Cu, PGE-Au-REE in Mafic-Ultramafic Bodies in Hadanur-Tagadur Belt, Mandya District, Karnataka (Block area- 7 sq. km.)	Ni-Cr-Cu, PGE-Au	G3	10	**86.12**
				Sub Total-B	**168.99**
				Total: A+B	**955.44**
C. Financial assistance projects					
Implementing Agency: DMG, Bihar					
5.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.			12	**15.50**
Implementing Agency: DMG, Goa					
6.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.			12	**35.96**
Implementing Agency: DGM, UT of Jammu and Kashmir					
7.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.			12	**144.56**
Implementing Agency: DGM, Madhya Pradesh					
8.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.			12	**161.35**
Implementing Agency: DGM, Mizoram					
9.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.			12	**195.99**
Implementing Agency: DGM, Nagaland					

10.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.	12	**14.25**
Implementing Agency: DMM, West Bengal			
11.	Financial assistance from NMET funds to procure machinery/ laboratory equipment/instruments etc. aimed at enhancing the exploration activities.	12	**54.50**
		Sub Total-C	**622.11**
		Total A+B+C	**1577.55**

* The projects at S. No. 9 and 10 submitted by north-eastern states are approved in reference with NMET letter no. **File No. 6/9/2015-NMET/237 dt. 25th November, 2022** wherein the North-Eastern states will be provided financial assistance up to ₹5.0 Crore.

* The projects at S. No. 5 to 8 and 11 submitted by states are approved in reference with NMET letter no. **File No. 6/9/2015-NMET/71 dt. 8th June, 2022 and File No. 6/9/2015-NMET/340 dt. 9th February, 2023** regarding financial assistance will be provided to states for infrastructure strengthening of DGMs/DMGs for enhancing the exploration activities.

List of projects approved for timeline extension in 29th EC meeting of NMET held on 31.03.2023

S. No.	Block/Project	Implementing Agency	Schedule date of completion	Required timeline (up to)	Status of Exploration/ GR
1	Preliminary Exploration (G-3 stage) for Limestone in Periyakurichi Block (1.88 sq. km) in Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu.	MECL	31.01.2023	30.04. 2023 (3 months)	GR submitted for Peer Review
2.	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Keluamali block, District - Kalahandi, Odisha	OMECL	31.12.2022	31.10.2023 (10 months)	Exploration work in Progress
3	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Majhingamali block, District – Rayagada & Kalahandi, Odisha	OMECL	31.12.2022	31.12.2023 (12 months)	Exploration work in Progress
4	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Tarhapani (West) block, District - Koraput, Odisha	OMECL	31.12.2022	31.05.2023 (5 months)	Exploration work in Progress
5	Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite in Karnapodikonda block in Narayanpatna Tehsil, District - Koraput, Odisha	OMECL	31.12.2022	30.09.2023 (9 months)	Exploration work in Progress

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