

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust

Sanction Order

F.NO.23/583/2025-NMET/ 951

New Delhi, 05th March, 2025

Subject: Approval of mineral exploration project and release of 1st Advance from Grant-inAid (General) for the project “Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Bauxite and associated minerals in Dhrang Block, Districts: Kachchh, Gujarat”.

Agency: - MECL

On the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 40th meeting held on 21st February, 2025 has approved mineral exploration project to be executed by MECL. The details of the project are given below: -

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (Including GST)
1	Preliminary Exploration (G-3) for Bauxite and associated minerals in Dhrang Block, Districts: Kachchh, Gujarat	Bauxite and associate minerals	G-3	14 Months (up to 04.05.2026)	1,50,99,484/-

2. The mineral exploration project will be funded by NMET as per the cost recommended by the TCC and approved by the EC. The Implementing Agency shall complete the same as per the approved cost estimates and time schedule, enclosed in **Annexure**, as summarized below: -

•	Field Mobilization	01 st month (up to 04.04.2025).
•	Exploration (Sampling, Survey, Drilling, Camp winding)	01 st to 13 th month (up to 04.04.2026).
•	Laboratory Studies	04 th to 14 th month (up to 04.05.2026)
•	Report Writing with Peer Review and submission to NMET	13 th to 14 th month (up to 04.05.2026)

3. The Implementing Agency shall submit progress on monthly basis to NMET Secretariat. The TCC, NMET shall review the progress of project and provide update to the Executive Committee.

4. Sanction is also hereby conveyed for release of the 1st instalment of 40% of the approved project cost i.e. ₹ 60,39,794/- (**₹ Sixty Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four only**) as an advance in terms of conditions stipulated in this office letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/176 dated 16th December 2021 and letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/217 dated 19th January 2022 regarding “*Release of funds to State Government / NEAs for mineral exploration*”.

5. The expenditure will be debited to ‘2853’ Non-Ferrous Mining and Metallurgical Industries (Major Head) 02-Regulation and Development of Mines (Sub-Major head) 102-Mineral Exploration (Minor Head) 05-National Mineral Exploration Trust Fund Activities (Sub-Head) 00- National

Mineral Exploration Trust Fund Activities (Detailed-Head) 05.00. 31-Grant-in-aid (General) under Demand No. 69, Ministry of Mines during the financial year 2024-25.

6. Certified that the pattern of assistance, under which the Grants-in-Aid (General) has been sanctioned, has the prior approval of Ministry of Finance.

7. MECL is a registered agency on EAT module of PFMS. In terms of **Rule 230, 235, 236 and 238 of GFR**, MECL should maintain subsidiary accounts of the Government Grants and furnish the same to the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry. The account shall be open to inspection by the Sanctioning Authority and audit, both by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and internal audit by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry of Mines, whenever the Organization is called upon to do so.

8. The exploration agency has to furnish the utilization certificate in respect of amount disbursed as Grant-in-aid for the project on utilization of disbursed amount or after completion of one year from the date of disbursement of advance, whichever is earlier. The next instalment of advance will be released after submission of utilization certificate and progress report in respect of the 1st instalment.

9. **The uploading of Geological Report (GR) on NGDR portal is sole responsibility of the exploration agency. The final payment will be made only after receiving the confirmation of the same. The screenshot / acknowledgement of successful uploading of GR is to be submitted to NMET with the final bill.**

10. Shri Arun Kumar Chail, Section Officer in the Ministry will be the Drawing and Disbursing Officer for this purpose. It is requested that the payment of ***60,39,794/- (* Sixty Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four only)** may kindly be made to the Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur - 440006 through RTGS in State Bank of India, Industrial Finance Branch, Nagpur (IFSC Code - SBIN0000432, Account No.10374783387)

11. This has concurrence of JS & FA, Mines vide Note# 13 dated 04.03.2025 (E file No. 3077675).

Yours faithfully,



To

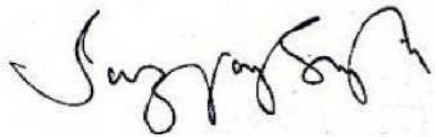
(Geetika Sharma)
Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

The Pay & Accounts Officer,
Pay & Accounts Office,
Ministry of Mines, New Delhi

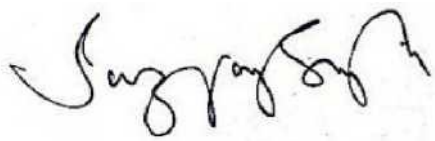
Copy for information and further necessary action:

1. The Chairman & Managing Director, Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd. (MECL), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhawan, Seminary Hills, Nagpur - 440006.
2. I.F. Division, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Executive Committee (EC) Meeting file (F. No.6/2/2015-NMET)
4. The Chairman, TCC, NMET.
5. Grant-in aid Sanction order file.

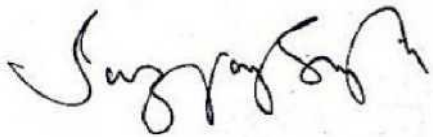
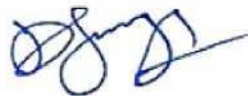
Annexure 5A							
Estimate cost for Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite and Associated Minerals in Dhrang Block (4.86 sq. km) Kachchh District, Gujarat [Block area- 4.86 sq. km; Schedule timeline- 14 months; BH-15 nos; Bh depth - 30m Drilling- 450m; Review- After 6 months]							
Name of the Agency - MECL							
S. No.	Item of Work	Unit	Rates as per NMET SoC 2020-21		Estimated Cost of the Proposal		Remarks
			SoC-Item - SI No.	Rates as per SoC			
					Qty.	Amount (Rs)	
A	GEOLOGICAL WORK (1:4000 scale) & TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY (1:4000 scale)						
i	Charges for one Geologist- Field	day	1.3	11,000	150	16,50,000	
ii	Charges for one Geologist per- HQ	day	1.3	9,000	60	5,40,000	
iii	2 labours/ party (As per rates of Central Labour Commissioner)	day	5.7	526	300	1,57,800	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher
iv	Sampling party days-1 Samplers Labour charge not included	day	1.5.2	5,100	90	4,59,000	
v	4 labours/ party (As per rates of Central Labour Commissioner)	day	5.7	526	360	1,89,360	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher
vi	Survey Party Days for topographical contour survey, block boundary and borehole points fixation	day	1.6. 1a	8,300	40	3,32,000	
vii	4 labours for surveyor	day	5.7	526	160	84,160	
	Sub Total- A					34,12,320	
B	PITTING AND TRENCHING						



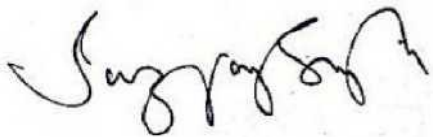


i	Pitting	Cu m	2.1.2	3800	100	3,80,000	
ii	Trenching	Cu m	2.1.1	3330	50	1,66,500	
	Sub Total- B					5,46,500	
C	LABORATORY STUDIES						
1	Chemical Analysis						
i	Primary & Check samples for Bauxite BRS/Chip/Channel/T rench/BH samples)						
	a. Primary Samples for 5 radicals i.e. Al ₂ O ₃ , SiO ₂ , Fe ₂ O ₃ , TiO ₂ & LOI	Nos	4.1.15a	4,200	340	14,28,000	BH-300, BRS-20, Pit/Trench- 20
	b. For each additional trace elements viz. V , Sc & Ga	Nos	4.1.15b	1,263	300	3,78,900	From BH primary samples
	c.External (10%) Check samples for 5 radicals i.e. Al ₂ O ₃ , SiO ₂ , Fe ₂ O ₃ , TiO ₂ & LOI	Nos	4.1.15a	4,200	34	1,42,800	
	d. External (10%) Check samples for each additional trace elements viz. V , Sc & Ga	Nos	4.1.15b	1,263	30	37,890	
2	Physical,Petrological, Mineralogical Studies						
i	Preparation of thin section	Nos	4.3.1	2,353	10	23,530	
ii	Complete petrographic study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	10	42,320	
iii	Preparation of polished section	Nos	4.3.2	1,549	10	15,490	
iv	Complete mineragraphic study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	10	42,320	
v	Digital Photographs	Nos	4.3.7	280	10	2,800	
vi	X-RD studies for mineral identification	Nos	4.5.1	4,000	10	40,000	




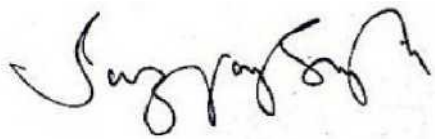

vii	ICP-AES/ICPMS (sequential technique) for 34 elements i.e. 16 other elements viz. Li, Ga, In, Be, Ge, Mo, Ni, Cr, Ta, W, Ba, Co, Rb, Sr, Zr, Nb ;16 REE viz. La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Sc, Y; 02 Actinides viz. U, Th.	Nos	4.1.14	7,731	15	1,15,965	Samples to be taken from the lithomerge & Bentonite clay horizons. Orientation survey for REE zone from pits.
viii	Bulk density determination	Nos	4.10	3540	10	35,400	
ix	Combined determination of Trihydrate Alumina (THA-140°C), Monohydrate Alumina (MHA- 240°C) & Reactive Silica	Nos	4.1.17a	6700	10	67,000	
Sub Total- C						23,72,415	
D	DRILLING						
i	Drilling upto 300m (Soft Rock) (1 rigs)	m	2.2.1.1b	7,168	450	32,25,600	First 6 boreholes will be taken up during the 1st phase of exploration. Rest 9 bhs will be taken up after review by NMET committee.
ii	Land / Crop Compansation	per BH	5.6	20,000	15	3,00,000	
iii	Construction of concrete Pillar (12"x12"x30")	per borehole	2.2.7a	2,000	15	30,000	
iv	Transportation of Drill Rig & Truck associated per drill	Km	2.2.8	36	4,648	1,67,328	Certification in this regard is required to be provided
v	Monthly Accomodation Charges for drilling Camp (up to 2 Rigs)	month	2.2.9	50,000	3	1,50,000	
vi	Drilling Camp Setting Cost	Nos	2.2.9a	2,50,000	2	5,00,000	2 rigs
vii	Drilling Camp Winding up Cost	Nos	2.2.9b	2,50,000	2	5,00,000	2 rigs
viii	Approach Road Making	Km	2.2.10a	22,020	2	44,040	Road Making will be considered as per the requirement and Road Making Charges will be reimbursed for max. 4 km.

ix	Bore Hole Fixation and determination of co-ordinates & Reduced Level of the boreholes by DGPS	Nos	1.6.2	19,200	19	3,64,800	15 Boreholes+ 4 Block Boundary points
x	Drill core preservation: One complete borehole plus mineralised cores of all the remaining Bhs	m	5.3	1,590	200	3,18,000	This amount will be reimbursed after successful delivery of the cores to concerned libraries/authorities
	Sub Total- D					55,99,768	
E	Total A to D					1,19,31,003	
F	Geological Report Preparation		5.2	For the projects having cost exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs but less than Rs.150 lakhs - A minimum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs or 5% of the value of work whichever is more		5,96,550	Reimbursement will be made after submission of the final Geological Report in Hard Copies (5 Nos) and the soft copy to NMET.
G	Peer review Charges		As per EC			30,000	
H	Preparation of Exploration Proposal	5 Hard copies with a soft copy	5.1	2% of the Cost or Rs. 5.0 Lakhs whichever is lower		2,38,620	EA has to submit the final proposal along with Maps and Plan as suggested by the TCC- NMET in its meeting while clearing the proposal.
I	Total Estimated Cost without GST					1,27,96,173	
J	Provision for GST (18% of I)					23,03,311	GST will be reimburse as per actual and as per notified prescribed rate
K	Total Estimated Cost with GST					1,50,99,484	
	or Say Rs. In Lakhs					150.99	
Note:							
1	Strict adherence to the Ministry of Finance's and GFR guidelines is mandatory. Every transaction must adhere to GFR rule 21.						

2	In case of delay/non- performance, the appropriate action will be taken by competent authority against delinquent agency as per prevailing govt. of India rules/guidelines on procurement.
3	If any part of the project is outsourced, the amount will be reimbursed as per the Paragraph 3 of NMET SoC and Item no. 6 of NMET SoC. In case of execution of the project by NEA on its own, a Certificate regarding non outsourcing of any component/project is required.
4	Necessary efforts should be made to minimize any adverse impact on the environment during exploration activities.
5	Any item of work not mentioned above shall be added as per SoC.
6	All the Geological Reports and data are to be uploaded on NGDR as per MERT template by the agency.



Time Schedule/ Action plan for Preliminary Exploration (G3) for Bauxite and Associated Minerals in Dhrang Block (4.86 sq. km) Kachchh

S. No.	Particulars	Months/ Days	1	2	3	5	6	Review	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Camp Setting	months														
2	Geological Mapping & BR sampling	months														
3	Survey days (Topographic survey & BH/BB survey)	days														
4	Pitting/T renching	cu.m														
5	Drilling (2 rigs)	m														
6	Geologist days	days														
7	Sampling days, BRS, Pit & Core Sampling	days														
8	Camp winding	months														
9	Laboratory Studies	months														
10	Geologist days, HQ	days														
11	Report Writing with Peer Review	months														

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