

Government of India
Ministry of Mines
National Mineral Exploration Trust
Sanction Order

F.No.23/562/2025-NMET/ 887

New Delhi, 24th February, 2025

Subject: Approval of mineral exploration project and release of 1st Advance from Grant-in-Aid (General) for the project "Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Maru Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat".

Agency: - MECL

On the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 39th meeting held on 24th January, 2025 has approved mineral exploration project to be executed by MECL. The details of the block are given below:-

S. No.	Project/Block Name	Commodity	Stage	Duration (Months)	Approved Cost (Including GST).
1	Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Maru Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat.	Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE	G-4	10 Months (up to 23.12.2025)	₹ 2,29,80,792/-

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	1 st month (up to 23.03.2025).
•	Exploration (Camp Setting, Sampling, Survey, Pitting/Trenching & Drilling, Camp winding)	2 nd to 08 th month (up to 23.10.2025).
•	Laboratory Studies	3 rd month to 10 th month (up to 23.12.2025)
•	Report Writing with Peer Review and submission to NMET	09 th month to 10 th month (up to 23.12.2025)

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 estimated project cost i.e. ₹91,92,317/- (₹ Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen 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 installment of advance will be released after submission of utilization certificate and progress report in respect of the 1st installment.

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 **₹91,92,317/- (₹ Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen 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# 14 dated 20.02.2025 (E file No. 3077534).

Yours faithfully,



(Geetika Sharma)

Deputy Secretary & HoD, NMET

To

**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.

Estimate Cost for Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite in Ambara-Maru Block, District- Kachchh, Gujarat [Block area- 94.25 sq. km; Drilling :800m, 20 BH Schedule timeline- 10months, Review : after 4 months]							Annexure 5A
S. No.	Item of Work	Unit	Rates as per NMET SoC 2020-21		Estimated Cost of the Proposal		Remarks
			SoC-Item -Sl No.	Rates as per SoC	Qty.	Amount (Rs)	
A	GEOLOGICAL WORK (1:12,500 scale)						
i	Charges for one Geologist- Field	day	1.2	11,000	150	16,50,000	
ii	Charges for one Geologist per- IIQ	day	1.2	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 Sampler Labour charge not included	day	1.5.2	5,100	151	7,70,100	
v	4 labours/ party (As per rates of Central Labour Commissioner)	day	5.7	526	604	3,17,704	Amount will be reimburse as per the notified rates by the Central Labour Commissioner or respective State Govt. whichever is higher
	Sub Total- A					34,35,604	
B	PITTING AND TRENCHING						
i	Trenching	Cu m	2.1.1	3330	150	4,99,500	
	Sub Total- B					4,99,500	
C	DRILLING						
i	Drilling upto 300m (Soft Rock) (1 rigs)	m	2.2.1.4a	7,168	800	57,34,400	20BH x 40m 800m, MoC rate

ii	Land / Crop Compensation	per BH	5.6	20,000	20	4,00,000	Amount will be reimburse as per actuals or max. Rs. 20000 per BH with certification from local authorities
iii	Construction of concrete Pillar (12"x12"x30")	per borehole	2.2.7a	2,000	20	40,000	
iv	Transportation of Drill Rig & Truck associated per drill	Km	2.2.8	36	2,500	90,000	Certification in this regard is required to be provided
v	Monthly Accommodation Charges for drilling Camp	month	2.2.9	50,000	4	2,00,000	
vi	Drilling Camp Setting Cost	Nos	2.2.9a	2,50,000	1	2,50,000	
vii	Drilling Camp Winding up Cost	Nos	2.2.9b	2,50,000	1	2,50,000	
viii	Approach Road Making (Flat Terrain)	Km	2.2.10a	22,020	5	1,10,100	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 and by DGPS	Nos	1.6.2	19,200	20	3,84,000	
x	Borehole core preservation-One complete borehole plus mineralised cores of all the remaining Bhs	m	5.3	1,590	610	9,69,900	610
	Sub Total- C					84,28,400	
D	LABORATORY STUDIES						
I	Chemical Analysis						
	Bedrock/Channel/Chip/Trench/BH etc Samples)						
i	a) Primary samples for K ₂ O, SiO ₂ , MgO, CaO, Na ₂ O, P ₂ O ₅ , Al ₂ O ₃ & Fe ₂ O ₃	Nos	4.1.15a	4,200	900	37,80,000	900 (200 + 100+ 600) (Surface+Trench+ BH)
	b) External Check sample (10% of Primary samples)	Nos	4.1.15a	4,200	90	3,78,000	

	c) Trace element (34 element)- ICPMS +10% Check	Nos	4.1.14	7,731	220	17,00,820	Samples with tuffaceous materials rich in phosphorite. Only BH samples.
ii	Preparation of thin section	Nos	4.3.1	2,353	10	23,530	
iii	Complete petrographic study report	Nos	4.3.4	4,232	10	42,320	
iv	Digital Photographs	Nos	4.3.7	280	10	2,800	
v	XRD Study	Nos	4.5.1	4,000	5	20,000	
vi	Bulk Density Determination	Nos	4.10	3,540	5	17,700	
	Sub Total- D						
E	Total A to D						
						59,65,170	
						1,83,28,674	
F	Geological Report Preparation		5.2 (iii)	Reconnaissance Survey/ Preliminary exploration/ General exploration/ Detailed exploration exceeding ₹150 lakh but less than 300 lakh: A Minimum of ₹7.5 lakh or 3% of the work whichever is more and ₹3000/- per each additional copy.		7,50,000	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 decision			30,000	

H	Preparation of Exploration Proposal (5 Hard copies with a soft copy)	5 Hard copies with a soft copy	5.1	2% of the Cost or Rs. 5.0 Lakhs whichever is lower	3,66,573	EA has to submit the Hard Copies and the soft copy of 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				1,94,75,247	
J	Provision for GST (18% of I)				35,05,545	GST will be reimburse as per actual and as per notified prescribed rate
K	Total Estimated Cost with GST				2,29,80,792	
				or Say Rs. In Lakhs	229.81	
Note:						
I	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.					



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Annexure 5B											
Time Schedule/ Action Plan for Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite in Ambara-Maru Block, District- Kachchh, Gujarat											
S. No.	Particulars	Months/ Days	1	2	3	4	Review				
1	Camp Setting	months									
2	Geological Mapping	months									
3	Survey days	days									
4	Trenching/Pitting	cu.m									
5	Drilling (1 rig)	m									
6	Geologist days	days									
7	Sampling days	days									
8	Camp winding	months									
9	Laboratory Studies	months									
10	Geologist days, HQ	days									
11	Report Writing with Peer Review	months									



5



Note # 1

Subject: Approval of mineral exploration project and release of 1st Advance from Grant-in-Aid (General) for the project "Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Maru Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat".

On the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 39th meeting (Pg.no.146/c,sr.16) held on 24th January, 2025 approved mineral exploration project "Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Maru Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat" to be executed by MECL at an estimated cost of ₹2,29,80,792/- (including GST) (Pg.127/c).

2. As per the office letter no. 42/1/2017-NMET/176 dated 16th December 2021 (Pg.no.118/c) regarding "Release of funds to State Government/NEAs for mineral exploration" the 1st instalment of 40% of the approved project cost i.e. ₹91,92,317/- (₹ Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen only) is to be released.

3. The budget status under the head Grant-in-aid (General) for 2024-25 for making payment of first advance ₹91,92,317/- (₹ Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen only) in favour of MECL is as under:

(₹ in crore)

Budget allotted for 2024-25	Sanctioned till date	Expenditure in process for IFD sanction	Amount in instant proposal	Balance in budget after the instant proposal	Available budget (%)
196.40	127.00	7.05	0.92	61.44	31.28%

The above-mentioned advance amount of ₹ 0.92 crore was not paid earlier to MECL in respect of "Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Maru Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat"

4. In view of above, file may be forwarded, through Joint Secretary (Mines), to JS&FA for financial concurrence of ₹91,92,317/- (₹ Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen only) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL.

5. DFA/ 3042496 sanction order is also placed for approval please.

10/02/2025 06:30 pm


Jayant Gupta
ASSISTANT COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Note # 2

11/02/2025 04:35 pm

Ravi Dutt
COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Note # 3

11/02/2025 04:56 pm


Jayant Gupta
ASSISTANT COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Note # 4

16/02/2025 10:22 am

GEETIKA SHARMA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Note # 5

May please concur.

17/02/2025 11:58 am

VIVEK KUMAR BAJPAI
JOINT SECRETARY

Note # 6

18/02/2025 01:52 pm

NIRUPAMA KOTRU
JS(FA)

Note # 7

18/02/2025 05:54 pm

आलोक कुमार|Alok Kumar
उप - सचिव|DEPUTY SECRETARY

Note # 8

19/02/2025 10:19 am

Thaneshwar Kumar
UNDER SECRETARY

Note # 9

19/02/2025 11:03 am

ASHOK KUMAR MEENA
SECTION OFFICERNote # 10

Integrated Finance Division

Ref: Note #1

NMET Section has sent a proposal with approval of JS seeking concurrence of IFD for ₹91,92,317/- (₹ **Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen only**) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL in connection with Project "**Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Marū Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat**".

2. They have informed that on the recommendation of Technical-cum-Cost Committee (TCC) of NMET, the Executive Committee (EC) in its 39th meeting (Pg.no.146/c,sr.16) held on 24th January, 2025 approved mineral exploration project "**Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Marū Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat**" to be executed by MECL at an estimated cost of ₹2,29,80,792/- (**including GST**) (Pg.127/c). The expenditure will be met from Object Head " Grant-in-Aid General of NMET for FY 2024-25.

3. Since EC has approved the proposal and 1st installment has been proposed to be released as per guidelines of NMET, IFD may consider to concur the proposal of NMET Section for ₹91,92,317/- (₹ **Ninety one lakh ninety two thousand three hundred seventeen only**) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL in connection with Project "**Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Marū Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat**".

Category: FC

Submitted for kind consideration/concurrence please.

19/02/2025 11:54 am

**Chaubay
CONSULTANT**

Note # 11

19/02/2025 01:08 pm

**ASHOK KUMAR MEENA
SECTION OFFICER**


Note # 12

Refer Note# 1 & 10 above.

The proposal submitted by NMET Section[with the approval of JS(VKB)] seeking financial concurrence for ₹91,92,317/- (₹ Ninety one lakh, ninety two thousand, three hundred & seventeen only) for making advance payment of 1st installment of 40% of the approved project cost to MECL in connection with Project Reconnaissance Survey (G-4 Stage) for Glauconite, Phosphorite & REE in Ambara-Maru Block, District Kachchh, Gujarat" from NMET's Object Head "Grant-in-aid (General)" for the financial year 2024-25, is submitted for kind consideration & concurrence(FC) of JS&FA(Mines) please.

19/02/2025 06:53 pm

**Thaneshwar Kumar
UNDER SECRETARY**

 Digitally Signed

Note # 13

20/02/2025 09:36 am

आलोक कुमार|Alok Kumar
उप - सचिव|DEPUTY SECRETARY

 Digitally Signed

Note # 14**20/02/2025 01:05 pm****NIRUPAMA KOTRU
JS(FA)**

Note # 15**20/02/2025 03:24 pm****आलोक कुमार | Alok Kumar
उप - सचिव | DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Note # 16**20/02/2025 05:04 pm****GEETIKA SHARMA
DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Note # 17**21/02/2025 01:41 pm****Jayant Gupta
ASSISTANT COST ACCOUNTS OFFICER**