

Peer Review Note on:

Geological Report on Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Phosphorite and associated minerals in Kaphalda Block, Dehradun and Tehri Garhwal Districts, Uttarakhand.

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1. Mining Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) has conducted a G-4 stage geological exploration for phosphorite, regarded by the Ministry of Mines as a critical mineral. A 109-page Report with Annexures and Maps has been generated based on this exploration. Peer review of this report is done, and a few points are recorded herein.
2. The exploration is done in Kaphalda area in the Lesser Himalayan region, fraught with usual challenges faced in such terrain. A three-fold objective was identified for this exploration. While objective (a) mapping on 1:125000 scale has been achieved, objective (b) trenching, sampling, analysis, geochemical and mineragraphic studies have been largely achieved, and objective (c) upgrading the block to G-3 appears to have fallen short, as a result of the lack of drilling.
3. The Report as a whole is comprehensively written with neatly arranged headings and subheadings in a way that the objectives and results of all studies are explained well. A few comments are recorded (in pencil) in the text directly, either to improve the readability or seeking clarifications. The latter (clarifications) may be incorporated.
4. The Maps (Plates as mentioned in the report) and Annexures, as well as their contents are informative and setup with lot of expertise. They are self-explanatory and loaded with scientific information.
5. The sampling, sample-preparation for analysis, analytical results and all such information are explained lucidly. The approach in sampling, namely collection of bed-rock samples and trench samples, for the purpose of exploration is in order, and appreciated.
6. The Legend of Fig.7.2 (map) requires explanation as mentioned therein (in pencil mark).
7. Mineragraphic study is carried out in an efficient manner.
8. The Resource Estimation (Chapter 19) is a fair approach considering the less than cut-off value (<5%) of P₂O₅. The exploration calls for further work from the currently adjourned stage of work.
9. The Summary and Recommendations (as in Chapter-21) are acceptable.
10. To sum up, the personnel that carried out the exploration till the current stage has done reasonably well considering the terrain and weather conditions. The G-3 stage of exploration is worth attempting.
11. Though low phosphorite contents, and extremely limited extent of the positively anomalous phosphorite-content areas in the Kaphalda Block are not encouraging at this stage, the exploration is worth given yet another chance for proving and understanding the critical mineral potential of the scarce commodity, namely phosphorite, in Kaphalda and adjoining areas.



20/9/2026

(H. Sarvothaman)

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(Currently at Hyderabad)

From

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Deputy Director General (Retd.), GSI,
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Hyderabad
20th September 2026

To

The Head of the Department (Exploration),
Exploration Division,
Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited,
Regd. Office: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhavan,
Seminary Hills, Nagpur 440006, Maharashtra.

Sir,

Sub: Geological Report on Reconnaissance Survey (G-4) for Phosphorite and associated minerals in Kaphalda Block, Dehradun and Tehri Garhwal Districts, Uttarakhand-

- Return after the Peer Review.

I am pleased to return the above-mentioned geological report in original, along with all the contents therein (Plates and Annexures) in Original after conducting Peer Review of the same.

A separate sheet containing the Peer Review Note is enclosed / attached.

The said report and the peer review note are being sent in original by Speed Post.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of the original report by post, after it is received.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



20/9/2026
(H. Sarvothaman)

Encl: as above.