A report on Workshop on Threshold Value of Minerals for Northern States Organized by Indian Bureau of Mines, Ministry of Mines, Government of India at Ahmedabad, Gujarat

1.0 Introduction: Indian Bureau of Mines is a subordinate department under the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and is responsible to ensure Scientific and Systematic mining, Conservation of Minerals, Protection of Environment in 'major' minerals in the country. To ensure of conservation of minerals, Indian Bureau of Mines has initiated various measures, issued guidelines and also carried out Research and Development study for utilization low grade minerals. Recognising the importance of "todays waste is tomorrow's wealth", Indian Bureau of Mines is notifying *Threshold Value of Minerals (THV)* from time to time for important minerals. Threshold value of minerals defined in Minerals (Evidence and Mineral Contents) Rules 2015 is the limits prescribed by the Indian Bureau of Mines from time to time based on the beneficiability and marketability of a mineral for a given region and given time, below which the material obtained after mining can be discarded as waste. The first notification of threshold values of minerals was issued by Indian Bureau of Mines in 1990. Subsequently, Indian Bureau of Mines has revised the threshold values in October 2009. Since last notified threshold values of minerals in 2009, many representations have been received from various mining companies and stake holders, requesting Indian Bureau of Mines to review and revise the threshold values of minerals. Therefore, Indian Bureau of Mines decided to hold the workshops across the country in order to take stock of the situation and assess the stakeholder's views through deliberations. Fourth such workshop for Northern States comprising of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand & J & K etc. was organized at GMDC Auditorium, Khanij Bhavan, 132 Ft. Ring Road, Near Ahmedabad-380052, Gujarat University Ground. Vastrapur. 7th October 2017 for covering Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Limestone, Bauxite, Apatite & Rock Phosphite, Fluorite and Wollastonite minerals. About 103 delegates participated in the aforesaid workshop.

2.0 Inaugural Session

- 2.1 Shri. Arunkumar Solanki, IAS, Managing Director, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) was Chief Guest while Shri Ranjan Sahai, Controller General, IBM presided over the function. At the outset, to mark the inauguration of the workshop, traditional lamp was lightened at the hands of dignitaries. Shri. K.S. Yadav, Regional Controller of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Gandhinagar, Gujarat welcomed the dignitaries and participants. He briefed the past history of threshold value of minerals in India and highlighted the importance of threshold value in today's context in minerals industry. He also focussed on maximum utilisation of minerals with zero waste mining concepts.
- 2.2 Shri S.K.Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, IBM, Nagpur in his speech in stated that this is the 4th consecutive workshop during the year starting from Goa,

Noamundi and Bhubaneshwar. He expressed that during the workshop whatever suggestions of participants are there, it will be finally deliberated at Nagpur to finalise the revised threshold value of minerals. He highlighted various important aspect of threshold value of mineral including present threshold value with respect to different minerals being mined in the Northern States. Shri Adhikari also requested to the forum, to submit valuable suggestions/opinion by stakeholders after going through the proceedings of various workshops displayed on IBM website.

- 2.3 Dr. P K Jain, Chief Mineral Economist, IBM, Nagpur in his address emphasised on the technology of zero waste mining as per National Mineral Policy 2008 / Inter generational equity and National Minerals Inventory. He pointed out that, due to lowering of Iron ore threshold values in 2009 there was significant enhancement in reserves & resources..
- 2.4 Smt. Ritu Singh, Additional Director (Technical), Commissionerate of Geology & Mining (CGM) and Guest of Honour in her address, stressed that the workshop would be highly beneficial for the entire mining industry in Gujarat in terms of getting key inputs from the industry for revising the threshold value of minerals.
- 2.5 Shri Arunkumar Solanki, IAS, Managing Director, GMDC and Chief Guest of the function delivered his speech and highlighted the importance of conserving the minerals for the future generation and he said that minerals must be utilised judiciously as the resources are finite in nature and GMDC always stands with regulatory agencies like IBM, CGM for taking any R & D Project and implementation of new technology for mineral conservation.
- 2.6 Shri Ranjan Sahai, Controller General, IBM and President of function in his presidential address expressed that Gujarat State is among one of the 12 major minerals rich States and hence the workshop is being organised for the Northern part of the country in Gujarat. He informed the various changes that industry has been passing through and the technological changes that IBM has brought in the last few years. He deliberated on the Star Rating of Mines, Mining Tenement System (MTS), Mining Surveillance System (MSS) and amendment in rules and regulations..

Further, he also informed that, Mining Surveillance System has been implemented by IBM for the major minerals and capacity building programme of the various States is also being carried out so that States can implement Mining Surveillance System for the minor minerals too. Focussing on the skill development, he said that, IBM has already opened skill development centres at Udaipur and Kolkata and will shortly open third skill development centre in the Varanasi. These centres will impart training to the industry as well as to the States on the various technical aspects / skills.

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3.0 **Technical Sessions**: In technical session of the workshop representatives from the various mining industry along with officials from Indian Bureau of Mines deliberated upon the existing threshold value of the minerals notified in 2009 and suggestions were received from mining industries on the threshold value of minerals like Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Limestone, Bauxite, and Fluorite. The technical discussion is detailed as below.

3.1 Technical Sessions-I: Iron Ore, Limestone, Manganese Ore, Bauxite and Fluorite.

The first technical session was held for Iron Ore, Manganese, Bauxite, and Fluorite minerals. The session was co-chaired by Shri D U Vyas, Sr. General Manager (Geology), GMDC and Shri Sunil Pandey, DGM (Mines) M/s. Jindal Saw Ltd.

- 3.1.1 Shri Parag Tadlimbekar, Superintending Mining Geologist, IBM, Nagpur conducted technical sessions and made a detailed presentation on "Revision of Threshold Value of Minerals". He highlighted the importance of threshold value of minerals and compared the threshold value of various minerals notified by IBM in year 1990 and 2009.
- 3.1.2 The second presentation was delivered by Dr. P K Jain, Chief Mineral Economist, IBM and he focussed on conservation of minerals by zero waste mining as per National Mineral Policy 2008. During the presentation, he made international comparison of various minerals. He further, emphasised about 100% extraction of minerals in the country namely Australia, Japan and Sweden. He also said that, threshold limit on judicious basis will avoid storage of non-usable minerals resulting in environmental related problems.
- 3.1.3 Shri Sunil Pandey, Head Mines, M/s. Jindal Saw Ltd. delivered his presentation on Iron Ore in view of existing and anticipated threshold values of Iron ore. During presentation, he give introduction on magnetite ore being mined by them in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan. He briefed that, this is first and large scale mechanised mine of Iron ore in Rajasthan. He also briefed on total reserves and resources scenario of Magnetite ore in the region, production pattern being adopted by JSW in their existing mine and total Magnetite ore production carried out so far. He also pointed out that, most of the Magnetic deposits are below 40% Fe content which is below the threshold value of the Hematite Iron Ore i.e. 45% and as per the current grade of Magnetite Ore, it comes under waste category. He also highlighted that, currently the royalty on Iron Ore Concentrate is based on ad valorem basis of Hematite Iron Ore which is very high considering very low grade Magnetite ore. He also added that, there is high processing cost of Magnetite Ore and requested the house for introduction of threshold value for Magnetite Ore as Fe 20%. He also suggested, the introduction of separate grading structure of low grade iron ore i.e. Fe 20 to 40%, re-introduction of separate of grading

structure of concentrate produced from low grade iron ore containing Fe 40% or less as existed up till 2009 and there should be no royalty for mining and processing below 20% Fe.

- 3.1.4 The fourth presentation was delivered by Shri D U Vyas, Sr. General Manager (Geology), GMDC on threshold value of Bauxite, Fluorspar and Manganese ore. He focussed and suggested that various factors may also be considered while revising threshold values of minerals like demand and supply scenario of minerals in the country, region-wise geology of the areas, economical viability, availability of technology/R & D, minerals development, environmental related issues and mineralogical and petrological aspects of deposits. He suggested for maintaining the same threshold value as of 2009 for bauxite, manganese and fluorspar. He also highlighted the efforts put by GMDC for utilisation of fine dust of bauxite in cement industry.
- 3.1.5 Shri S K Upadhyay, DGM, Mines of M/s. Ashapura Group of Industry invited attention and emphasised on consideration of market need, the bauxite having less than 38% alumina (Al₂O₃) are not having demand in market in present scenario. Ashapura Group of mines utilised the raw bauxite having alumina content 35 to 37% by blending with little bit good quality and upgrade composite quality up to 38%Al₂O₃. He expressed that, in future, the demand of bauxite in domestic as well as export may go up to 30% Al₂O₃ and he proposed that threshold value of Bauxite should be kept at 30% Al₂O₃ and reactive silica 5% max.
- 3.1.6 Last presentation of this session was made by Shri Abhishek Tripathi, M/s. Radhakrishna Minerals and Mines on Bauxite. During presentation, he briefed about geological formation of Kheda with respect to occurrences of Bauxite mineralisation in different parts of Kheda district. He also gave the statistics on total number of mines being operated in Kheda district and total reserves/resources of Bauxite existing in the area. Being low grade (aluminous laterite of ferruginous Bauxite), he suggested threshold value of minerals for Kheda district should be considered on regional basis.

3.2 Technical Sessions-II: Limestone

The second technical session was held for Cement and Chemical grade Limestone. The session was co-chaired by Shri.N.V.Nitnaware, Dy. Director General, GSI, Shri Ajit Ostwal, Sr. Vice President, Ultra Tech Cement Ltd, Mumbai and Shri P.N. Rao, President, Gujarat Mineral Industries (GUJMIN).

3.2.1 In the beginning of this session, first presentation was made by Shri Deepak Mahule, Asstt. Vice President, of M/s. Ultratech Cement Ltd. In view of revising threshold value of Limestone minerals, he highlighted and urged that following considerations should be adopted while revising threshold value of Limestone

- Even after use of pet coke available, screening of run-of-mine, the cut off limit of CaO is around 40% as against threshold value of 34% - 35% for different regions.
- Due to better process control limiting value of MgO usage can be enhanced from the present 4% to 5% max.
- Deposits with high SO₃ content restricts usage of pet coke as resulting in consumption of limestone with high CaO% only thus limiting the use of low grade limestone.
- Coastal deposits in Gujarat having high SO₃ and CI content cannot be utilised fully even after having by-pass system. Present clinker manufacturing process restricts usage of SO₃ more than 0.8% and CI more than 0.16% based on their experience of 20-25% bypass system.
- Further, he added that, there is no much technological development in beneficiation techniques for upgrading limestone quality that will bring down CaO usage at threshold value.
- Resources should be considered up to a cut off of 38% CaO, 5% MgO, SO3<=0.8% and Cl<0.16% considering the scope of beneficiation. These limits can be reviewed again after a period of 5 years.
- 3.2.2 The second presentation was made by Shri Deepak Kalla and Shri Rajneesh Kothari on limestone deposit of Nimbahera, Chittorgarh dist. of Rajasthan. They requested to classify threshold value of limestone region wise based on occurrence of limestone deposit (formations like Aravalli, Vidhyan etc.) based on present practices adopted for manufacturing of cement to overcome the problem of land degradation and environment by way of disposal as waste and used for other purpose. He also focussed on local and regional geology of formation of Nimbahera series of limestone deposit. Hence, for Nimbahera limestone, their opinion was to raise threshold value of limestone from 34% CaO to 38% CaO.
- 3.2.3 Third presentation of this session was made by Shri S. Banerjee of M/s. Nuvoco Cement, Rajasthan. He emphasised on Hon. NGT order on restriction of use of petcoke. Hence, due to restriction on petcoke there will be increase in operating cost for manufacture of cement. He suggested that, for increase in threshold value of CaO up to 41% and silica content 15% max may be considered.
- 3.2.4 Last presentation of this session was made by Shri C M Dwivedi, M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd., Porbandar, Gujarat on threshold value of chemical grade limestone. He highlighted that cut-off grade of limestone for soda ash plant is CaCO3 more than 92% and silica more than 4% which is already very much on higher side. In-house R &D (Effluent solid filtration), ESF technology has been developed to recover CaCO3 from effluent discharge of soda ash plant. ESF cakes are utilised in cement manufacturing. Thus solid waste of soda ash is reused in cement manufacturing addressing environmental concern of solid waste disposal and consideration of cement grade Limestone. Undersize

limestone (-50 mm) is used in captive cement plant which is generated during the process of limestone sizing for soda ash plant. He further added, there is 100% utilisation of mine waste in their mine.

4.0 **Concluding Session**:

- 4.1. Shri Ranjan Sahai, Controller General chaired the concluding session along with Shri. S.K. Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, Shri. K.S. Yadav, Regional Controller of Mines, Gandhinagar, Dr. P K Jain, Chief Mineral Economist, IBM, Nagpur and Smt. Ritu Singh, Additional Director (Technical), Commissionerate of Geology & Mining. Shri Parag Tadlimbekar, Suptdg. Mining Geologist, IBM summarised the deliberation of the day's workshop and requested the participants to submit further suggestion if any with technical analysis supported by scientific data. Shri Ranjan Sahai, Controller General, IBM addressed the queries raised by various participants and assured that all their concerns will be taken care in determining the threshold value of minerals.
- 4.2 Shri. K.S. Yadav, Regional Controller of Mines, Gandhinagar, IBM presented vote of Thanks and thanked all the participants and speakers for their valuable contribution and fruitful discussion in the workshop.

The workshop ended with a vote of thank to the chair.

List of participants in Threshold Value Workshop held at GMDC Auditorium, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 7th October 2017

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Organisation
1	Shri Ranjan Sahai	Controller General	IBM, Nagpur
2	Shri S.K.Adhikari	Chief Mining Geologist	IBM, Nagpur
3	Dr. P.K.Jain	Chief Mineral Economist	IBM, Nagpur
4	Shri K. S. Yadav	Regional Conlroller of Mines	IBM, Gandhinagar
5	Shri P.M Tadlimbekar	Suprintending Mining Geologist	IBM, Nagpur
6	Shri T. K. Sonarkar	SMG	IBM, Nagpur
7	Shri A.D Gupta	AMG	IBM, Nagpur
8	Shri Sanjay M Girhe	SMG	IBM, Gandhinagar
9	Shri D. D. Bhardwaj	Sr. ACOM	IBM, Gandhinagar
10	Shri Gumna Ram	Sr. ACOM	IBM, Gandhinagar
11	Dr. N. K. Mathur	AMG	IBM, Gandhinagar
12	Shri Snehal Patel	STA (ME)	IBM, Gandhinagar
13	Shri Umesh Sharma	Stenographer	IBM, Gandhinagar
14	Shri Chuna Ram	MTS	IBM, Gandhinagar
15	Shri M. Choudhary	SCD	IBM, Gandhinagar
16	Shri Arunkumar Solanki, IAS	Managing Director	GMDC Ltd.
17	Shri A.L. Thakor	Sr.GM (PRD, LP, M&M	GMDC Ltd.
18	Shri L. Kulsrestha	Sr.GM (Fin)/CFO, I/C	GMDC Ltd.
19	Shri A.K. Makadia	GM (Mktg& CSR & IT)	GMDC Ltd.
20	Shri D.U. Vyas	GM (Geology)	GMDC Ltd.
21	Shri Joel Evans	Co. Sec.	GMDC Ltd.
22	Shri PulakMathur	Dy.GM(Buss. Dev.)	GMDC Ltd.
23	Shri S.G.Patel	GM (Project) –Gadhsisha	GMDC Ltd.
24	Shri G.K.Patel	GM (Project) – Kadipani	GMDC Ltd.
25	Shri N.B.Patel	I/C GM (Project) – Mevasa	GMDC Ltd.
26	Shri Piyush Shah	Geologist	GMDC Ltd.
27	Shri Dhaval Patel	Geologist	GMDC Ltd.
28	Shri Anil Patel	Geologist	GMDC Ltd.
29	Shri J. D. Raj	Geologist	GMDC Ltd.
30	Shri S. N. Patil	Geologist	GMDC Ltd.
31	Shri H. M. Tailor	HR	GMDC Ltd.
32	Shri Bharat Kewat	IT Dep.	GMDC Ltd.

33	Shri S. G. Bera	Manager	GMDC Ltd.
34	Shri R. M. Shah	Manager	GMDC Ltd.
35	Shri D. S. Pathak	Sr Manager (Geology)	GMDC Ltd.
36	Shri P. R. Shah	Sr Manager (Geology)	GMDC Ltd.
37	Shri G. C. Dag	Sr. Manager (Surevy)	GMDC Ltd.
38	Shri Shital Patel	Technical	GMDC Ltd.
39	Shri K. A. Sahu	Technical	GMDC Ltd.
40	Shri Ankur	Management Trainee	GMDC Ltd.
41	Shri Vijay Singh Rathore	AVP (Mines)	ABG Cement Ltd
42	Shri Lalasanjiva Prasad	Geologist	ACC Ltd
43	Shri Y. K. Sharma	MD	Almora Magnesite Ltd.
44	Shri Ajay Kumar Jain	Dy. GM	Ambuja Cement ltd.
45	Shri Ramsingh Chauhan	Dy. GM (MR)	Ambuja Cement ltd.
46	Shri Akhilesh Singh	GM, Mines	Ambuja Cement ltd.
47	Shri Santanu Chatterjee	Manager Geology	Ambuja Cement ltd.
48	Shri Manish Joshi	Agent (Mines)	Atulya, Gujarat
49	Shri P.S. Bhatt	T.A.	Atulya, Gujarat
50	Shri Jaydip Singh	Project Scientist	BISAG
51	Shri Vijay Shah	Project Scientist	BISAG
52	Shri J.V. Bhatt	Consultant	BMC Ahmedabad
53	Shri S. K. Upadhyay	DGM (Mines)	Bombay Minerals Ltd
54	Shri Vivek Shah	Manager (Geology)	Bombay Minerals Ltd
55	Shri Rakesh Dodia	Mining Engg.	CarborundamUni.Ltd.
56	Shri Abhay Kumar Sahu	Project Head	CarborundamUni.Ltd.
57	Shri A. Y. Talat	Assi. Geology	CGM, Gujarat
58	Shri Sanjay Dave	Geologist	CGM, Gujarat
59	Dr. S. K. Handw	ADO	CMA
60	Shri Arjun Singh	Mines Manager	D C W Ltd
61	Shri S. K. Tiwari	Manager, Mines	Dalmia Refractories Ltd
62	Shri R. K. Pathak	Geologist	GHCL Ltd.
63	Shri K. J. Dave	Ex. Sec.	GMIA
64	Shri N. V. Nitre	DDG	GSI
65	Shri D. Varma	Sr. Geologist	GSI
66	Rajeev Ranjan Singh	DGM(Mines)	Gujarat Sidhee Cement Ltd.
67	Shri Deepak Kalla	Dy. GM	J K Cement Ltd.
68	Shri Rajneesh Kohari	Manager (Geology)	J K Cement Ltd.

69	Shri A. K. Gupta	DGM (Mines)	J K Lakshmi Cement Ltd.
70	Shri R. C. Nyati	VP Mines	J K Lakshmi Cement Ltd.
71	Shri Jagdish T Shah	Agent	JaishreeKirshna
72	Shri Lalit Mohan Garg	Head Technical	Jindal Saw Ltd.
73	Shri Sunil Pandey	Head of Mines	Jindal Saw Ltd., Bhilwara
74	Dr. T.K. Shah	AP OBG	Medical Collage Raigarh
75	Dr.Dipika Singh	AP OBG	Medical Collage Raigarh
76	Shri K. N. Patel	Advisor	Nirma Ltd.
77	Shri Harshit Shah	Geologist	Nirma Ltd.
78	Shri Govind Khatri	Sr. Geologist	Nirma Ltd.
79	Shri S. Banerjee	DGM, Mines	NUVOCO (Nirma Ltd.)
80	Shri Abhishek Tripathi	Geologist	Radha Krishna Mines
81	Shri M. K. Choubay	DGM (Mines)	Sanghi Cement Ltd.
82	Shri Gaurang Bhatt	Sr. VP	Sanghi Cement Ltd.
83	Shri P. K. Deshpandey	HOD, Mines	Saurashtra Cements Ltd
84	Shri Siyaram Mishra	Sr. Geologist	Saurashtra Cements Ltd
85	Shri A. R. Panda	Sr. Manager Mines	Saurashtra Cements Ltd
86	Shri S. N. Singh	MANAGER	Shri Digvijay Cement Ltd
87	Shri S. K. Bhakta	AVP	Tata Chemicals Ltd.
88	Shri MayankShrivastava	Dy. Manager – Mining	Tata Chemicals Ltd.
89	Shri C. M. Dwivedi	Sr. Manager Geology and Mining	Tata Chemicals Ltd.
90	Shri Vivek Shukla	Geologist	Ultratech Cement Ltd.
91	Shri Deepak Mahule	AVP	Ultratech Cement Ltd.
92	Shri Vinay S Chitale	Sr. General Manager	Ultratech Cement Ltd.
93	Shri AjitOstwal	Sr. Vice President	Ultratech Cement Ltd.
94	Shri VivekUplanchiwar	Vice President & Agent	Ultratech Cement Ltd.
95	Shri Rajesh Sambrer	VP Mines	Ultratech Cement Ltd.
96	Shri Ganpat Singh	Geologist	Wolkem Ind. Ltd.
97	Shri O.P. Rajpurohit	DGM	Wonder Cement Ltd.
98	Smt. Parul	Project Manager	BISAG
99	Shri Baroria	Editor	Daily Newspaper
100	Shri Jalin	Editor	DD News
101	Shri B. T	Editor	Hindustan Samachar News
102	Shri Narendra Joshi	Editor	Nirmal Metro
103	Shri R. M. Vyas	Editor	Vani Pravah



Distinguished Guests on the Dias from left Shri K. S. Yadav, Regional Controller of Mines, IBM, Gandhinagar. Smt. Ritu Singh, Additional Director (Technical), Commissionerate of Geology & Mining, Shri Ranjan Sahai, Controller General, IBM, Shri Arunkumar Solanki, IAS, Managing Director, (GMDC), Shri S. K. Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, IBM and Dr. P.K. Jain, Chief Mineral Economist.



Lightening the lamp by the Guests







Participants interacting in the workshop

Speakers and presenters of the Threshold value Workshop at Ahmedabad



Shri Ranjan Sahai, Controller General, IBM.



Shri. Arunkumar Solanki, IAS, Managing Director, GMDC



Smt. Ritu Singh, Additional Director (Tech.), CGM.



Dr. P K Jain, Chief Mineral Economist, IBM



Shri S.K. Adhikari, Chief Mining Geologist, IBM



Shri. K.S. Yadav, Regional Controller of Mines, IBM



Shri Parag Tadlimbekar, Suptdg. Mining Geologist, IBM



Shri Sunil Pandey, Head of Mines, M/s. Jindal Saw Ltd. Rajasthan



Shri D U Vyas, Sr. General Manager (Geology), GMDC, Gujarat



Shri S K Upadhyay, DGM, Mines, M/s. Ashapura Group, Gujarat



Deepak Mahule, AVP, M/s. Ultratech Cement Ltd.



Shri Rajneesh Kothari, Manager (Geology), M/s. JK Cement Works, Nimbahera



Shri S. Banerjee, DGM Mines, M/s. Nuvoco Cement, Rajasthan.



Shri C M Dwivedi, Manager (Geology), M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd.,



Shri Abhishek Tripathi, M/s. Radhakrishna Minerals and Mines

