

Government of India  
Ministry of Mines

F.No.11/36/2008-M.I.[Pt.I]

New Delhi, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2009

To

The Director General,  
Geological Survey of India,  
27 Jawaharlal Nehru Road,  
Kolkata – 700016

**Sub : Dissemination/ Pricing Policy of Published/ Unpublished Report/ Map Data Products of Geological Survey of India (GSI)**

Sir,

I am directed to say that the matter regarding publication and access of Reports/ Maps/ Data available with the Geological Survey of India has been under the consideration of the Government for some time. The issue has also come up in meetings of the Central Geological Programming Board wherein it has been represented that free and ready access to the data through the Website/ Portal is the standard procedure in leading Geological Surveys and that charging for the information is not only against international best practices, but also counter-productive to mineral exploration and important societal uses of geospatial data for such purposes as infrastructure planning, natural hazard management, etc.

2. The matter has been considered in-depth also in the context of the Right to Information Act 2005, with reference to the following:-

- (i) The Preamble to the Act which speaks of harmonizing conflicting interests between public interest, efficient operation of the Governments, optimum use of limited fiscal resources and preservation of confidentiality of information.
- (ii) Section 4(1), which mandates that all public authorities shall maintain their records duly catalogued and indexed and shall computerize their data and facilitate access through a country-wide network.
- (iii) Section 4(2)&(3), which directs that it should be the constant endeavour of every public authority to provide as much information suo-moto to the public through the internet and in a form and manner which is easily accessible to the public.
- (iv) Section 8, which exempts from disclosure of information only matters involving security, contempt of Court, breach of legislative privilege, commercial confidence, criminal procedures, personal information, etc.

*Sm*

3. Documents (both text and graphic) generated and circulated by GSI are basically of two types:-

- (i) printed and published for sale as well as for free distribution; and
- (ii) unpublished documents for circulation within GSI and also for sale after costing on case to case basis for bonafide users.

It has been accordingly decided that the availability of information/ documents will henceforth be regulated as follows:-

- (i) **Published Maps:** GSI will continue to print and publish maps of different scales and themes both as hard copy prints along with soft copy (pdf) format contained in CD after obtaining statutory clearance from SOI/MOD as required. These maps are sold at a price not exceeding the printing cost and other processing charges. While the present system will continue, hereafter all State Geological & Mineral maps as and when published will be available in GSI portal as raster images for free viewing in the public domain. All other maps printed and published by GSI will also be uploaded as thumbnail images. Along with this an Internet map service has been created through uploading of multiple thematic layers of 1: 2m Geological Map of India as vector image for free viewing and querying. In future all maps published by GSI in the scale of 1: 1m and smaller (1: 2, 5, 7.5 m etc) will be uploaded as vector images.
- (ii) **Published Reports & Journal:** GSI prints and publishes scientific documents (containing text and graphic data) through different serials (Records, Memoirs, Journal of Geoscience etc) enlisted with the Controller of Publication. These publications are of both priced as well as un-priced (e.g., *GSI News*) category. Pricing would be done based on no-profit-no loss policy. While this practice will continue, these printed books will be made available in GSI portal after release. Out of print publications particularly those belonging to the economic geology series (*Bulletin Series A*) will be uploaded at the earliest. In future, Final Reports on mineral exploration having economic resource/ reserve estimates will be printed and published out as *Bulletin Series A*, immediately after their release as unpublished documents.
- (iii) **Unpublished Maps:** 4176 sheets of 1: 50 K geological maps have been compiled and digitised. These maps are being edge-matched and uploaded in phases in the GSI portal for intranet users in UTM projection using WGS84 datum. Simultaneously these uploaded maps will be converted as images along with sheet-specific legends and will be made available in the Internet. Paper prints of these maps will also be available for sale with pricing policy same as those for published maps. Dissemination of other unpublished

*Sumit*

thematic maps with or without customisation will also be guided by the same principle.

(iv) **Unpublished Reports:** GSI unpublished reports will be classified as:

- (a) *Limited Circulation Reports;* reports on exploration of all minerals including energy minerals, which are not sponsored/ promoted by other organisations;
- (b) *Open-File Reports;* all other reports including mapping, societal issues, R&D etc.;
- (c) *Restricted Circulation Reports;* primarily Marine, aero-geophysical and ground gravity survey reports;
- (d) *Secret Reports;* those sponsored by Defence and or containing sensitive text/ graphic data; and
- (e) *Sponsored Project Reports;* reports generated through commercially sponsored investigations.

- For *Limited Circulation Reports* (Category (a)), text part of the report with maps of 1: 50K and smaller scales will be uploaded in GSI portal for viewing in the public domain. The hard copy of the report will be available for sale under the existing pricing policy from the respective Regions/ Wings and Operational offices. Reports released after 2004 will be given priority (as doc. files of the same are already available). Free distribution and other modes of dissemination of hardcopy to various organisations will be discontinued hereafter.

- For *Open File Reports* (Category (b)), will consist of four subcategories:

(b)(i): Reports on earthquake geology & seismology; landslide; environmental geology and other reports covering societal issues released 2004 onwards will be uploaded in GSI portal in its complete form for downloading/ printing. Priority of uploading will depend on the assessment of demand, particularly by the State Government Departments. Uploading of reports released before 2004 will be considered based on specific request. Henceforth these reports will not be priced.

(b)(ii): Reports on geological/ thematic mapping containing maps of 1:50K and or 1: 25K without SOI topographic contours will be put in the portal after 2 years of release/ circulation within GSI. This is the minimum time required for the authors(s) of the report to publish their work in national/ international journal. Uploading of reports released before 2004 will be considered based on specific requests. Hard copy of the report will be sold as per existing policy.

*Shub*

(b)(iii): Reports on geochemical mapping will be uploaded with the geochemical maps (contours) of specific elements for public viewing. In future when data of all the 68 elements will be available part raw data indicating soil fertility, elements of health hazard etc will also be uploaded along with the report. Hard copy of the report will be available for sale along with the maps/ data to exploration agencies both private and public.; and

(b)(iv): Reports/Data/ Maps generated through R&D projects particularly those having immediate utility to the Society/ Research community will be uploaded in GSI portal. Henceforth these reports will not be priced.

- For reports under Category (c), i.e., *Restricted Circulation Reports*, the existing practice/ policy will continue till SOI/MOD revises its restriction policy.
- Reports under Category (d), *Secret Reports*, and Category (e), *Sponsored Project Reports*, will not be put in the public domain.

4. Unpublished documents under the category of *Detailed Information Dossier* (DID) for different mineral commodities will be put in GSI portal with low-resolution graphic data till these are printed and published as Bulletin Series A.

5. All materials uploaded in GSI portal will contain watermark of the GSI emblem and anybody using these documents for scientific publication and or commercial purpose should acknowledge the contribution of GSI.

6. Any requisitions for hard copy of un-priced reports that are available for free viewing, downloading and printing will be charged to realise the incidental costs for making hard copies. GSI shall separately submit a list of standard cost of items to the Ministry for approval.

7. This issues in consultation with IF Division vide U.O. No.10/09/IF dated 04.06.2009 and the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of Mines.

Yours faithfully,



**(S. VIJAY KUMAR)**  
**Additional Secretary to the Government of India**

**Copy to:**

1. Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur
2. Chairman and Managing Director, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur
3. Secretary (Mines & Geology), State Governments – as per list
4. Director (Mines & Geology), State Governments – as per list

**Copy also to:**

1. PS to Minister of Mines
2. PS to Secretary/ Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines
3. PS to JS (A)/ JS (V) , Ministry of Mines
4. All Directors/ Dy. Secretaries, Ministry of Mines
5. All Sections, Ministry of Mines.

*A. Jai*  
5/6/09  
(Dr. K. Ayyasami)  
Director (Technical)