

Transformation from previous classification system for mineral resources/reserves into the new system

Wang Zhihong
China

国土资源部矿产资源储量评审中心
The Mineral Resources and Reserves Evaluation Center



The national standard of Classification for Resources/Reserves of Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities was introduced in June 1999 and entered into force on 1st December 1999, which represented a revolutionary reform in the mining industry of China. In accordance with the new classification system, the Chinese Government has completed reclassification of all the native annual statistical data for solid minerals. The reclassification was an important action of realizing the reform, and was the precondition of carrying out new classification system.

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Reclassification, which began in June 1999, included in two phases: firstly, the reclassification of forty-five main minerals commodities was completed in the year 2000. up to 2001. Secondly, reclassification of other mineral commodities was completed in the year 2001. Up to 2002.



For successfully implementing reclassification, the mineral resources and reserves evaluation center of the Ministry of Land and Resources, P.R.C constituted a technological requirement for transforming old system into new system, and developed some corresponding software which was tried out in Hubei and Hebei provinces.



As a operable and dirctory document, the technological requirement prescribed objects, general requests, methods and procedures of the reclassification with specific claim, showed standards to accomplish reclassification.



The technological requirement adopts main parameters as follows: the status of utilizing mineral commodities, the stages of exploration, the reason of not developing, the situation of assembled commodities, the circumstance of utilizing intergrowth and satellite commodities, previous resources/reserves categories, and reserves of mineral commodities. The relation between the parameters with 16 resources/reserves categories in the new classification system was shown in the technological requirement.



Reclassification was organized by the Ministry of Land and Resources. Each level of government founded respectively leading group which set up administration offices and specialist group to supervise the implement of reclassification.



To popularize the application of the new system throughout industry, the government launched a series of action including training, investigating, reclassification and examination. Details as follows:

1. Holding about 100 countrywide training classes with teaching VCD.

2. Launching countrywide investigation of mines. In detail, 15000 questionnaires were put out all over the country with 94.6% recovery. Through the wide-scaled investigation of mines, we found out the basic information of mineral resources and reserves.



3. Bringing out reclassification on provincial level. After finishing the task, the leading group of supervising reclassification in respective province checked the result of reclassification. The program checked by the leading group referred to three main items: (1) whether the method and procedure of reclassification satisfied the relevant regulation. (2) whether the parameters adopted in the process of reclassification were reasonable and feasible. (3) whether the result of reclassification was right.



After countrywide reclassification was completed in July 2001, the summary tables and analysis reports were formed, and provincial and countrywide database were created. The task of reclassification was completed successfully.



The main harvest of reclassification as follows:

1. Application of Classification for Resources/Reserves of Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities were popularized. The scientific procedure and regulation of reclassification have been founded.
- 2. Previous classification system was completely transformed into the new system similar to UNFC. The transformation which helped to engage the classification system of China with UNFC was a revolutionary reform in the mining industry of China.
- 3. A good foundation for putting the new system in practice was set up through the popularization of the new classification system in the process of reclassification, while the popularization cultivated all-level managers supervising mineral resources and reserves for the government and technicians for mining industry.
- 4. Abundant information of mining areas and plenty resources and reserves data was verified.

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Further working plan

- 1. To summarize the status of implement of the new system since 1999 and improve the new system.
- 2. To revise the exploration specifications for every mineral commodities in accordance with the new system.
- 3. To communicate with other countries in the field of classification of mineral resources and reserves.
- 4. To make people, who use classification systems different than the one of China, accept the works of Chinese colleagues.

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Thank you!

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