

Appendix 1. Definitions of Levels of Mineral Resource Potential and Certainty of Assessment

Definitions of Mineral Resource Potential

HIGH mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics define a geologic environment favorable for resource occurrence, where interpretations of data indicate a high degree of likelihood for resource accumulation, where data support mineral-deposit models indicating presence of resources, and where evidence indicates that mineral concentration has taken place. Assignment of high resource potential to an area requires some positive knowledge that mineral-forming processes have been active in at least part of the area.

MODERATE mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics define a geologic environment favorable for resource occurrence, where interpretations of data indicate reasonable likelihood of resource accumulation, and (or) where an application of mineral-deposit models indicates favorable ground for the specified type(s) of deposits.

LOW mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics define a geologic environment in which the existence of resources is permissive. This category embraces areas with dispersed but insignificantly mineralized rock, as well as areas with few or no indications of having been mineralized.

UNKNOWN mineral resource potential is assigned to areas where information is inadequate to assign low, moderate, or high levels of resource potential.

NO mineral resource potential is a category reserved for a specific type of resource in a well-defined area.

Definitions of Levels of Certainty

LOW certainty level means that available information suggests the level of mineral resource potential.

MODERATE certainty level means that available information gives a good indication of the level of mineral resource potential.

HIGH certainty level means that available information clearly defines the level of mineral resource potential.

These definitions are adapted from those published in: Goudarzi, G.H., compiler, 1984, Guide to preparation of mineral survey reports on public lands: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 84-0787.