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I declare, I confirm, I certify and I sign that I received substantial, important, line by line peer review with several and substantial comments, important remarks and hints from, at least, 3 Reviewers and the Assistant Editor for my paper:

FEATURES OF GOLD PLACER FORMATION IN THE UKRAINIAN CRYSTALLINE SHIELD AND SOUTHERN UKRAINE

with Authors:

I. Lomakin, E. Sarvirov, V. Kochelab.

I would like to thank all the reviewers for their thoughtful comments and efforts towards improving our manuscript. We revised the manuscript with special attention to the comments that we received from **Three (3)** reviewers that were experts, specialists in the area of my paper.

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Our article identifies the main exogenous processes that determine the formation of gold placers. Their features for the Ukrainian Shield are given. This is mainly the result of

varied surface water activities combined with climatic factors. The role of exogenous processes influencing the further evolution of placers is also considered. It is emphasized that the type and dynamics of surface water activity are directly dependent on the nature of multidirectional regional block tectonic movements.

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There was interest in occurrences of alluvial gold in Ukraine in the 80s – 90s of the 20th century. Then state financial resources were allocated and geological prospecting work was carried out (in small volumes) by state geological enterprises. Due to the lack of positive results from this work, government funding for the search for placer gold was stopped. After this, only a few enthusiastic researchers were interested in the problem of gold placers in Ukraine. They studied and described the actual materials of gold-bearing samples obtained earlier. In this regard, the bulk of publications on placer gold in Ukraine were published at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st centuries. In the article, we present compilation data on the results of previous works to respect the priority of the authors. We analyzed the geological research methodology used in the 20th century and established the reason for the negative results of exploration work. More recent publications on the issue of placer gold in Ukraine are associated with new finds and descriptions of placer gold of small and fine size classes. The results of geological exploration work in previous years for placer gold are unreliable and require rethinking.

Many of the main publications on the problems of placer gold in Ukraine date back to the late 20th – early 21st centuries, we cannot ignore these publications due to their importance for covering this issue and their priority.

Links to our own articles are necessary to briefly explain our positions.

Our article uses information (without direct citation) from publications listed in the references. Links to sources of information are contained in the text.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines, positioned on the left side of the page.

Date: 27.10.2023