

# Guideline for Developing a Technical Work Program – Petroleum Exploration Permit

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Version 3

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<b>Acronyms</b>	
The following acronyms are used in this document	
NTG	Northern Territory Government
SPE-PRMS	Society of Petroleum Engineers Petroleum Resource Management System

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## Purpose

This guideline aims to ensure that the Northern Territory Government (NTG) continues to assist oil and gas explorers to carry out effective exploration and to ultimately develop petroleum resources for the benefit of the Territory economy, while still meeting legislative requirements and providing transparency and accountability.

The guideline applies to all exploration permit holders or their representatives who are developing a technical work program as part of an application.

By following the requirements in this guideline you will ensure that your application is processed in a timely way with minimal disruption to you.

## Technical Work Program Requirements

A technical work program for an exploration permit must be consistent with your exploration strategy and be underpinned by a technical and geological evaluation of the permit, as explained below.

The program must include the activities necessary to progress the definition of potential petroleum resources to at least a 'Contingent Resource' as classified by the Society of Petroleum Engineers Petroleum Resource Management System (SPE-PRMS).

The early elements of the program should be aligned with the exploration strategy and be adequate to enable the later elements to proceed. This includes providing justification for the number of wells (which should be supported by the number and maturity of plays), prospects and/or leads identified, i.e. the technical work program should be pursuable on a dry hole basis. At least one well should be drilled to maximise the chance of discovery.

A technical work program should include:

- indicative expenditure in Australian dollars for each activity at current market value
- the number of line kilometres of 2D and proposed line spacing and/or square kilometres of 3D seismic data that will be acquired within the permit area and processing of that data
- the amount, type and details of the applicable dataset of any new reprocessing you propose to undertake
- the number of exploration wells proposed, including indicative plays and target play levels
- the nature, scope and objectives of any studies
- descriptions and the conceptual locations/targets/purpose of any other operational activities or surveying proposed.

You may submit any other relevant information you believe will assist the assessment of your application.

## Exploration Strategy

An exploration strategy should:

- maximise the chance of a discovery of petroleum at the end of the permit term

- have the potential to significantly advance the understanding of the petroleum potential of the permit
- link the technical work program with the technical and geological evaluation.

## Technical and Geological Evaluation

A technical evaluation should summarise your understanding of the geology and petroleum potential of the exploration permit based on all regional and local data available. It should include the concepts underlying the technical work program with sufficient detail to support that program.

A sound technical evaluation should include, but is not limited to:

- an assessment of the area, including potential petroleum systems and plays within the exploration permit and potential analogues
- any prospects and leads mapped within the permit, including supporting material such as images, interpreted seismic sections and horizon maps
- the amount and type of seismic surveying and the number and conceptual targets of wells to be drilled, where applicable
- the data and/or studies the technical evaluation is based on
- an assessment of all relevant data, noting any data gaps
- any geotechnical studies, seismic interpretation, mapping, log interpretation or other work undertaken as part of the technical evaluation
- the processes and techniques you propose to use to utilise existing data over the permit.

## Related Legislation

- [Petroleum Act](#)
- [Petroleum Regulations](#)

## Further Information

Email [petroleum.operations@nt.gov.au](mailto:petroleum.operations@nt.gov.au)