

Guideline for Renewing a Petroleum Exploration Permit

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Version 3

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Acronyms	
The following acronyms are used in this document	
NTG	Northern Territory Government
PRMS	Petroleum Resources Management System
Territory	Northern Territory

Contents

Purpose	4
Renewal of an Exploration Permit	4
Technical Work Program.....	4
Exemption from Requirement to Reduce Permit Area	5
Related legislation	5
Further information	5

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 wish to apply to renew an exploration permit.

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

Renewal of an Exploration Permit

You can apply to renew an exploration permit before it expires.

You must apply between three and six months before the expiry date, although applications up to but no later than the expiry date may be accepted in some circumstances.

The permit will lapse if you don't submit a renewal application before the end of its term.

Once you have applied to renew a permit, the existing permit will remain valid until the department makes a decision about the renewal.

An exploration permit can be renewed for a period of five years. A permit can only be renewed twice.

Generally you will relinquish 50% of the blocks in your permit area on renewal. The remaining blocks should form a single area or a number of discrete areas of two or more blocks. If you are renewing an area of 12 or more blocks, each discrete area should comprise of 12 blocks or more, however you may apply for an exemption to this rule.

Your renewal application should include:

- A technical and geological evaluation of the petroleum potential of the area including resource estimates in terms of the best estimate prospective resources for identified leads and prospects. Resource estimates must be in accordance with PRMS.
- A technical work program, developed in accordance with the relevant guideline requirements.
- An overview of your compliance with the permit conditions, any directions you have been issued and with the *Petroleum Act*.
- A report detailing the actions you have taken to restore and rehabilitate the blocks that will be relinquished at renewal and any land adjacent to the permit area that has been affected by your operations.

You may be asked to provide additional information to support your application.

Technical Work Program

Your work program should be developed in line with the Guideline for Developing a Technical Work Program – Petroleum Exploration Permit.

Any work you intend to carry out to appraise a known petroleum accumulation in an area may form part of your technical work program, however must be clearly differentiated from your exploration activities.

Your technical work program should detail the activities that are going to be undertaken within the permit area. Any work, studies or reprocessing that is to be done outside of the permit area must be clearly differentiated from the rest of the program.

Exemption from Requirement to Reduce Permit Area

You can apply for an exemption from the requirement to reduce your permit area for 12 months at the time of renewal.

You must provide reasons for requesting the exemption in your application including:

- a technical and geological evaluation of the petroleum potential of the area
- an overview of your compliance with your permit conditions, any directions given to you and with the *Petroleum Act*
- why it will make carrying out your technical work program or other exploration in the area more effective and therefore improve your chance of discovering a commercially exploitable accumulation of petroleum
- that it is in the best interests of the Territory.

The technical and geological reasons for the exemption will vary depending on the prospectivity and size of the area. At a minimum it is expected that:

- the proposed technical work program and exploration strategy will significantly advance the assessment and understanding of the petroleum potential of the permit area
- you have demonstrated significant effort to identify and assess the petroleum potential of the permit area
- if the geological and technical evaluation demonstrates that you have not matured further drillable prospects, that you will do so by undertaking significant exploration activity in the renewal term.

You may apply for a further 12 months exemption from the requirement to reduce your permit area before the original exemption expires, however you must have met the requirements listed above.

Related legislation

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

Further information

Email petroleum.operations@nt.gov.au