

Guidelines for production licence applications



APA 2026

Awards in predefined areas



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General application information

ApplicationID

Each application will have an individual ID, referred to as "ApplicationID" in the relevant forms and documents.

The ApplicationID is repeated in all file names related to the application and must also be used in the "Application list from company" table in the application letter.

When paying the application fee, the payment must be marked with the ApplicationID.

It is the company submitting the application that gives the ApplicationID to the application, and the partners must use the same ApplicationID in "Application letter from Company". If an application is submitted with the ApplicationID "NODCAT", the other participants in the AMI must refer to "NODCAT" in their "Application letter from company" and Company_Information.xlsx

Companies that have unused ApplicationIDs from previous APA-rounds are free to use these. If the company has changed its name since the last APA-round or need additional ApplicationIDs, these may be obtained by contacting apa@sodir.no

Submission of application

Each application must be submitted to both the Ministry of Energy (ME) and the Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD). Upon sending via L2S Authority Communication, both the Ministry of Energy and the Norwegian Offshore Directorate can be added as recipients in the same submission.

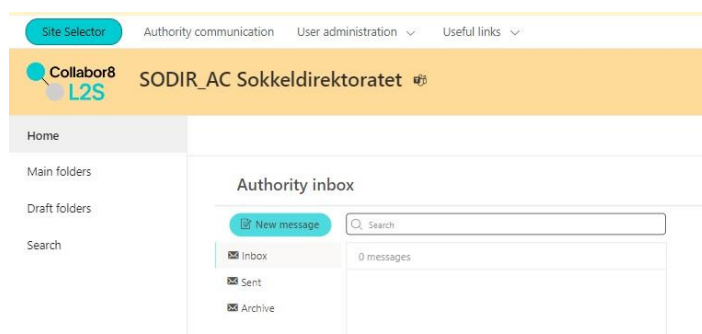
The Norwegian Offshore Directorate

The application(s) including attachments must be saved in one folder named *TFO2026-"ApplicationID"-"applicationnumber"of"totalnumber"* and the folder must subsequently be compressed ("zipped"). "Total number" represents the number of applications your company actually submits via L2S, and not the number of applications in which they are participating. The folder must not contain subfolders and the file must not be protected by password.

Example for company "Energy AS" submitting one application with the ApplicationID "ENECAT":
TFO2026-ENECAT-1of1.zip

The submission must be named *TFO2026-"ApplicationID"-"applicationnumber"of"totalnumber"* and submitted via L2S Authority Communication to the Norwegian Offshore Directorate.

The inbox in L2S Authority Communication looks like this:

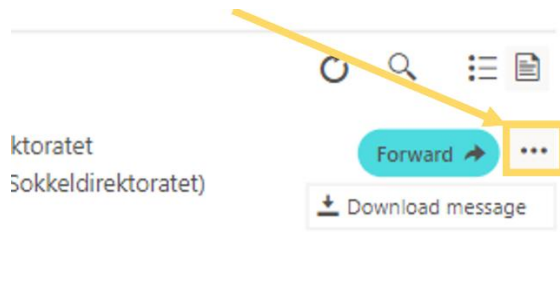


The Ministry of Energy

One copy of the application shall be sent to the Ministry of Energy (ME) via L2S Authority Communication.

The deadline for submission is **12:00 noon on 1 September 2026**. Applicants are encouraged to submit in good time before the deadline.

Confirmation as "sent" in L2S Authority Communication is to be regarded as a receipt of the authorities' receipt of the application(s). You can also receive confirmation that the application has been sent by clicking the button as shown under then selecting "Download message".



Overview of submissions to the ME and the NOD

- Application letter
- Application(s) including attachments
- Company information

The total size of the application **should not exceed 600 MB**.

Forms

The forms requested for the applications can be found in the Excel workbooks:

1. ApplicationData
 - a. Table 1: Application summary
 - b. Table 2: Resource overview
 - c. Table 3: Work program and duration
2. Discovery and Prospect data
 - a. Table 4: Discovery and prospect data
3. CompanyInformation
 - a. Table 5: Application list from company
 - b. Table 6: Size and experience
 - c. Table 7: Financial status
 - d. Table 8: Projected cash flow (only for companies without international credit rating)
 - e. Table 9: Other values

The forms must be delivered together in the above-mentioned Excel workbooks. Legal intervals have been defined for values that must be filled in for parts of the information requested. An error message will show if filled in incorrectly. The accepted interval is specified in the headings of each column. The Excel workbooks are electronically uploaded to the NOD's database for APA rounds. Formatting of the Excel forms beyond removing surplus rows at the bottom is therefore not permitted. The forms are only available in English but can be completed in both Norwegian and English where a selection does not have to be made from a drop-down list.

Shape files

Shape files for the acreage applied for must as a minimum be named "*ApplicationID_AppliedArea*". If there are more elements in the naming, use the underscore as element delimiter. The shape files must contain a polygon showing the acreage applied for. The shape file must also contain information regarding whether or not the area is stratigraphically split. The format in which we want this information delivered is described in example file "*NODCAT_AppliedArea.zip*".

Shape files for discoveries/prospects/leads must be named "*ApplicationID_Prospect_Lead*". At least one polygon for Base (mode/mean) must be provided for all discoveries/leads reported in "Table 4: Discovery and prospect data". For all prospects, polygons for P90, Base (mode/mean) and P10 must be included.

It's important that the name of a discovery/prospect/lead is entirely identical in all tables/files (ApplicationData, Table 4: Discovery and prospect data and in the shape file). Names of fields/discoveries must be spelled identically to the NOD's Factpages.

Note: All discoveries/prospects/leads mentioned in an application must be submitted in the same shape file. The required format is described in the example file "NODCAT_*Prospect_Lead*".

Overview and naming of the content in each application

- Appendices:
 1. Application
 2. ApplicationData
 3. Discovery and Prospect data
 4. Map of area applied for
 5. Shapefile with the area applied for
 6. Shapefile with discoveries, prospects and leads

- Files must be named as indicated below:

Name of file	Format	Description	Example name with ApplicationID "NODCAT"
<i>ApplicationID_Application</i>	.pdf	Application	NODCAT_Application.pdf
<i>ApplicationID_ApplicationData</i>	.xlsx	Completed Excel workbook "ApplicationData" One Excel workbook per application	NODCAT_ApplicationData.xlsx
<i>ApplicationID_"Funn, prospekt og prospektmulighet navn"_discovery-and-prospect-data</i>	.xlsx	Completed Excel workbook "discovery-and-prospect-data" One Excel-workbook per discovery, prospect and/or lead	NODCAT_Prospect_discovery-and-prospect-data.xlsx
<i>ApplicationID_Map</i>	.jpg	Map of area applied for with prospects, max. 200 kb	NODCAT_Map.jpg
<i>ApplicationID_AppliedArea</i>	.shp	Shapefile with outline of area applied for.	NODCAT_AppliedArea.shp
<i>ApplicationID_Prospect_Lead</i>	.shp	Shapefile with outline for discovery, prospect and lead, attributes in the shapefile must describe resource class and use the same prospect, lead or discovery name as in the Discovery-and-prospect-data form.	NODCAT_Prospect_Lead.shp

For the various parts of the application, a guiding maximum side and figure/table numbers are indicated. If the total numbers of pages, figures and tables are exceeded, a clear reasoning must be given. Use a font size corresponding to Times New Roman 12 and single/standard spacing. Maps and illustrations should not be larger than A4. All information in figures and maps must be legible. All maps must contain coordinates, as well as a scale. For further guidance on map design, we refer to the [geostandard document](#) available at [sodir.no](#).

The Excel-workbooks to be used in the applications can be found on the NOD's website together with these guidelines at: www.sodir.no/en/apa2026/. The Excel form formats must not be changed. Exceptions are removing surplus rows in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4.

All units (depth, area, volume, etc.) must be provided in metric units.

Application for additional acreage

Companies can apply for additional acreage where discoveries or mapped prospects extend continuously from the applicant's production licence into the area announced in APA 2026. The following criteria must be fulfilled in order to be awarded additional acreage:

1. All licensees in the existing production licence are applicants.
2. The distribution of ownership interests will be identical to the existing production licence.

If the application for additional acreage aims at a **new prospect** extending from an existing licence, a separate work programme must be proposed for the additional acreage which comprises exploration/drilling.

Only a production licence can apply for additional acreage. If a unit (BAA) wants additional acreage with the same ownership interests as in the unit, a new licence must be applied for.

Application for stratigraphic area

In a stratigraphic application, the interval applied for must be indicated in Chapter 1 (Application summary) as well as in the appropriate column in the ApplicationData table 1: Application summary. The standard for denoting stratigraphic delimitation is: top/base stratigraphic level (formation) and older/younger. Example: Top Kolmule fm. and older.

Application for areas containing discoveries/shut-down fields

If the area applied for contains discoveries and/or shut-down fields, information about plans for further exploration/maturation must be provided. If there are no current plans, please give an explanation why this is not relevant.

Geographic layout of the area

- It is emphasized that all applied for acreage must have a plan for development. Acreage without plan for development is not normally awarded
- Leads without plan for maturation are not normally awarded

Application content

1. Application summary

The application summary must be included as the first part of the application. The application summary should be approximately three pages and must contain:

- A. Overview of applicants and the area applied for, indicating the block number in completed form "Table 1: Application summary"
(Table 1 must also be in the Excel workbook "ApplicationData")
- B. Overview of all the resources included in the application with completed form "Table 2: Resource overview"
(Table 2 must also be in the Excel workbook "ApplicationData")
- C. Map with geographical coordinates, block number and scale which shows the applied for area with an outline of the discoveries, prospects and leads that are specified in the form "Table 2: Resource overview", and presented in the application.
(The map must also be included as a separate .jpg file and the area outline as a .shp file)
- D. Completed form "Table 3: Work programme and duration"
(Table 3 must also be in the Excel workbook "ApplicationData")

A. Overview

Provide a brief description of applicants and applied for area. For applications for additional acreage, provide a brief description for why the application is relevant for the production licence. For applications for stratigraphic area, the interval must be indicated. The form "Table 1: Application summary" is to be completed with the necessary data. An example of a filled in form is shown below.

Table 1: Application summary

Application for Production Licence in blocks:	Region	If application for additional acreage ¹ , PL no.:	If application is stratigraphic, denote delimitation ²	Participants (Correct name of company from list)	O P O/P ³	Participation share [%] ⁴ (0,000001 - 100)		
						Preferred	Lower	Upper
7218/5	Barents Sea		Top Kolmule fm and older	Company A	O	60	50	70
				Our Company AS	P	40	30	40

¹ Additional acreage: where discoveries or mapped prospects extend into announced acreage from an existing production licence with the same licensee(s) and ownership interests, select licence number from the drop-down menu.

² Stratigraphic: Where applied-for area is delimited stratigraphically. The standard for denoting stratigraphic delimitation is: top/base stratigraphic level (formation) and older/younger. Example: Top Kolmule fm. and older.

³ O= operator, P= partner, O/P= no particular preference regarding operator or partner role

⁴ The size of the ownership interests primarily preferred, as well as an upper and lower limit which the applicant can accept, in an interval between 0,000001 and 100 %. The ownership interests must be in accordance with the interests listed in the application letter from each company. An upper and lower limit are not indicated for additional acreage

B. Resource overview

A brief summary of the resources in the applied for area must be given and outlined on a map showing the discoveries, prospects and leads described in the application, and that are listed in the form "Table 2: Resource overview". Use different colours to show different stratigraphic levels. Key data for the discoveries, prospects and leads described in the application must be listed on the form "Table 2: Resource overview". An example is shown below:

Table 2: Resource overview

Discovery/ Prospect/ Lead name ¹	D/ P/ L ²	Resources in acreage applied for [%] ³ (0,0 - 100,0)	Nearest relevant infrastructure ⁴	
			Name	Km (>0)
Karlvogna	P	100	Aasta Hansteen	30
Storebjørn	L	100	Aasta Hansteen	30
Lillevogna	L	85	Aasta Hansteen	30

¹ The name of the prospect or lead is informal and can be chosen freely. Ensure the name is used consistently throughout the application documentation. It's important that the name is completely identical in the Excel-file "ApplicationData", in the Shape file and in Table 4: Discovery and prospect data. For discoveries, the correct name should be collected from the NOD FactPages

² D =discovery, P =prospect, L = lead

³ Percentage of recoverable resources (mean) for discoveries/prospects/leads located in area applied for

⁴ The nearest relevant facility with petroleum processing plants

C. Map

The applied for area and outline of the discoveries, prospects and leads mapped are shown in a map containing geographic coordinates, block number and scale. The prospect outline must be given as Base (mode/mean) in the application summary. For application for stratigraphic production licence, please fill the area with simple hatch.

D. Work programme and duration

The applicant's proposed work programme and duration of the production must be listed in the form "Table 3: Work programme and duration", shown below. Examples of/suggested work programmes, and decisions that will be used, are provided below the form. Other activities can also be entered. A more detailed description of the work programme should be provided in Chapter 3 of the application.

Here are some examples of activities in the work programme related to geophysical data:

Acquire 3D seismic data – acquisition (licence/purchase) of available seismic data – the seismic data deemed appropriate for the exploration of the area.

Acquire modern 3D seismic data – acquisition (licence/purchase or new acquisition) of seismic data acquired within the last five years. This also includes seismic data older than five years acquired using alternative, advanced methods. Such methods may include halfseis, topseis, OBN, OBC, combined node+streamer, and DAZ seismic data. DAZ seismic data is defined as co-processing of two or more datasets, where it is possible to include one or more existing surveys older than five years collected in different shooting directions.

Acquire (innsamle) new 3D seismic data – new acquisition of seismic data. This can be seismic data acquired on behalf of the licence, but can also include multi-client seismic data collected on behalf of the licence.

Reprocess 3D seismic data – reprocessing of data at least from before the migration of data. Thus, velocity modeling and new migration count as reprocessing, but further processing of already migrated seismic data (prestack or poststack) does not count as reprocessing.

Table 3: Work programme and duration

If the work programme in the additional acreage is the same as for the work programme in the existing production licence, it should be possible to tick the box “as for”. In these circumstances, the table should not be populated. Do not list remaining work programme for existing production licence.

If additional acreage and work program is "as for", do not fill out the table below, only select "X" in cell G3 → ☐

Period	Phase (>0)	Duration [year] (>0,0)	Work program	Decision at milestone
Initial period:	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	Sum	0	Extension period [years] (>0,0):	

EndOfTable

Work program examples:

- G&G studies
- Acquire 3D seismic
- Reprocess 3D seismic
- Acquire new 3D seismic (innsamle ny 3D-seismikk)
- Acquire and reprocess 3D seismic
- EM feasibility study
- Acquire EM data
- Drill (one) firm wildcat well
- Drill wildcat well
- Drill appraisal well
- Conceptual studies
- Prepare development plan

Decision examples:

- Acquire 3D seismic or Drop
- Acquire new 3D seismic or Drop
- Drill or Drop
- Concretize (BoK) or Drop
- Continuation (BoV) or Drop
- Submit PDO or Drop

2. Geological and technological assessment

2.1 Database and data utilisation

Seismic, wells and other data types such as EM data, used in the evaluation of the area/resource potential. How data has been utilised will be emphasised, as well as to what extent new and own interpretations and analyses were performed by the applicant.

Information must be provided on consultant reports, purchased studies and other information that is not publicly available that has been used in the application. Section 2.1 should not exceed 5 pages including maps and tables.

Seismic database	Seismic used in the evaluation is listed with the survey name and type of seismic is shown clearly in a database map of the applied for area. Data quality and measures to improve data can also be mentioned here.
Well database	Well data that has been used in the evaluation is listed by name and shown clearly in a database map of the applied for area. Key wells are marked and commented/discussed.
Studies	Provide information on internal or purchased relevant technical studies with clear references, e.g. reprocessing/geophysical special studies, geochemistry studies, basin modelling, etc.

2.2 Petroleum geological overview

The documentation in this section can be kept to a minimum for applications in mature areas/areas near existing fields or for mature/well-established exploration concepts. In these cases, it is sufficient to describe seismic mapping and plays, in addition to factors that are considered critical for the evaluation of the mapped prospectivity. Any possibility for high pressure and/or high temperature (HPHT) in the area applied for, regardless of depth and mapped prospectivity, must be addressed. The documentation for these applications should under Section 2.2 not exceed 2 pages of text in addition to a maximum of 10 figures.

Applications in underexplored areas/new exploration concepts should focus on one concept with associated prospect(s)/lead(s) that are given primary focus in the descriptions, while alternative exploration concepts are described more generally. The analysis should focus on the factors that are considered critical for mapped prospectivity in the area and for evaluation of those. If previously documented studies have been used in the assessment, these must be referenced along with a short summary. The documentation under Section 2.2 for underexplored areas/new exploration concepts should not exceed 5 pages of text in addition to a maximum of 20 figures.

Seismic mapping	Describe which horizons are interpreted, "well tie" and the depth conversion method. The following figures must be included as a minimum: ▪ Synthetic seismogram which documents "well tie" ▪ Seismic line which shows calibration of seismic interpretation vis-à-vis well(s)
Regional geology	Briefly describe the primary stratigraphic, sedimentological and structural characteristics of the area. The following figures must be included as a minimum: ▪ Chronographic and lithostratigraphic column showing levels for identified prospectivity ▪ Palaeogeographic map which illustrates the extent of the main reservoir for mapped prospectivity ▪ Map showing structural framework in the area
Basin development	Describe source rocks, maturity and migration of hydrocarbons. The following figures must be included as a minimum: ▪ Basin map showing migration routes towards evaluated prospectivity
Plays	Describe the play that represents the application's primary prospectivity. Briefly present other relevant plays in the applied for area, if applicable. The following figures must be included as a minimum: ▪ Map showing the distribution of the primary play in the area

2.3 Resource evaluation

Mapping and evaluation of discoveries, prospects and leads in the area applied for. Discoveries also include shut-down fields.

The main prospect and/or discovery is described in detail, while secondary prospectivity/leads are described in less detail. The main prospect in the application is defined as the prospect with the greatest risk-weighted resource potential. In areas where several prospects/leads are mapped within the same play/exploration concept and area, an overall description of mapping, resource calculation and uncertainty analysis are provided.

If the primary focus in the application is an existing discovery, the content of the evaluation must be adjusted, with greater emphasis on production properties and development plans and less emphasis on topics related to undiscovered resources.

The documentation under Section 2.3 should not exceed 10 pages of text, in addition to about 10 figures, including:

- a maximum of 5 pages for the defined discovery/primary prospect/group of prospects, in addition to relevant figures/maps, and:
- maximum one page of text in addition to figures for each prospect in potential secondary exploration concepts.
- if required, the documentation may exceed the maximum number of pages and figures in cases where both discoveries/fields and prospects are discussed.

The form "Table 4: Discovery and Prospect data" must be filled in with data/parameters used in the evaluation of the mapped discovery/primary prospect/group of prospects. For leads, the table should be filled out as detailed as possible, but as a minimum, the pink cells must be filled out.

Mapping

For the discovery, primary prospect or group of prospects within the primary exploration concept, provide a description of how the discovery/prospect/prospects are mapped, the type of trap and seal, expected reservoir properties, expected hydrocarbon type and fill percentage.

The evaluation must in particular explain factors considered critical to the prospect or critical for recovery from the discovery.

The following documentation must be included for the discovery/primary prospect/group of prospects:

- One overview map with coordinates and outline of the discovery/prospect, as well as position of seismic lines and geological profiles
- Two seismic and geological profiles in intersecting directions
- Time map and depth map in equal scale for reservoir horizon(s)
 - A time map is not necessary if the mapping is based on depth converted seismic
- Seismic attribute map/time slices, if applicable

Other figures can be included to the extent they are relevant for the description of discoveries, prospects and leads. For discoveries/shutdown fields, we expect well correlations and interpreted well logs, reservoir zonation as well as illustrations from static reservoir models.

A shorter description is provided for mapped prospects/leads within potential secondary exploration concepts.

Resource calculation

For discoveries, mapped prospects and potential leads, describe the method for calculating the following:

- rock volume with uncertainty range
- resources in place with uncertainty range
- recoverable resources with uncertainty range

The description shall include the method for uncertainty calculation, and explanation for the chosen reservoir and fluid parameters, as well as recovery rate.

A resource estimate with spread must be listed in the form "Table 4: Discovery and Prospect data" for all discoveries, prospects and leads. For leads, the table should be filled out as detailed as possible, but as a minimum, the pink cells must be filled out.

For discoveries/shutdown fields, the calculation of recoverable resources should cover multiple development concepts and recovery methods and should be illustrated with tornado diagrams for uncertainty range. Upsides and downsides should be described.

If only parts of the mapped discovery, prospect or lead are located in the applied for area, the form "Table 2: Resource Overview" must clearly indicate the percentage this constitutes, as well as the total resource estimate.

Discovery probability Discovery probabilities and associated sub-probabilities listed for prospects in the form "Table 4: Discovery and Prospect data" are addressed and explained with regard to the critical factors for the prospect. See also definitions enclosed with the form "Table 4: Discovery and Prospect data".

Technical reservoir conditions schedule For prospects, there must be a brief description of the expected production with the planned production strategy, and the most important reservoir uncertainties and challenges that can be expected. Indicate which IOR measures could be relevant in the short and long term. A simple production profile is included.

A more detailed description, including a production profile, must be provided if an existing discovery/shutdown field is the primary focus in the application. Reservoir data (SCAL, PVT etc.) that is of significance for selecting the recovery method must be presented. Explain how uncertainties such as reservoir communication, aquifer support and pressure development can affect the production profile and how the challenges can be managed.

Formation testing A cost-benefit assessment of the need for a Drill Stem Test (DST) should be included to reduce uncertainty regarding reservoir and flow properties for the applied for prospectivity. The assessment should as a minimum be linked to the main prospect and include a summary of quantitative and qualitative arguments related to the need for DST. The assessment should be based on available data at the time of application and include expected reservoir complexity (including faults, heterogeneity, and layering) and knowledge of reservoir properties with similar geological conditions, especially in nearby areas. The assessment should not exceed one page.

2.4 Technological assumptions and development plan

For the mapped discovery/primary prospect or group of prospects, there must be a description of what is assumed to provide the most optimal and feasible development solution for the area.

If the applicant identifies a potential for a fast-track development solution, the relevant decision milestones and timeline must be described. Fast-track development solutions require discoveries/main prospects with sufficient maturity and well-understood geology.

Relevant alternative solutions can also be discussed. The description must comply with the IOR measures discussed in Section 2.3, and should be limited to about three pages including illustrations for prospects.

The gas solution should be discussed, and future processing/transport capacity with possible connection to existing infrastructure is discussed if the applicant has access to such information.

A more detailed description must be provided for discoveries/shut down fields: Relevant development alternatives must be presented and compared. Drainage strategies, wells, facilities, tie-in, power and transport solutions should be included in the description. Profitability calculations with assumptions should be presented for the various concepts. Brief discussions should be provided for challenges/risks and plans for potential commercial negotiations. Particular attention should be devoted to new solutions/new technology.

3. Work programme

Information about the work programme for the applied for area, provided in the form "Table 3: Work programme and duration" in the application summary, must be discussed and explained. The entire work programme for the initial period must be described, with primary emphasis on the initial phase. Reference is made to examples and formulations in the form "Table 3: Work programme and duration".

Comment briefly:

- relevant seismic surveys considered/intended to be used
- the time frame for the various phases of exploration and/or development plans for a discovery
- estimated time frame for tie-in to existing infrastructure
- possible need for clarification/coordination in relation to adjacent production licences
- proposed duration of the production licence (extension period)

The initial phase can be no longer than 10 years. The duration of the extension period should be based on the production profile for the main prospect, maximum is generally 30 years.

If the application includes leads, describe how they will be matured into drillable prospects.

The possibility of cooperating with other production licences in the area on joint geophysical acquisition should be discussed.

If significant parts of a mapped discovery, prospect or lead in the applied for area extend into an already existing production licence, the impact this will have for the plans must be discussed.

If a fast-track development solution is planned, the proposed work programme must include a description of the execution, including relevant decision milestones and a timeline.

Section 3 should be limited to approximately two pages of text. If the focus in the application is development of an existing discovery/shutdown field, a detailed schedule is expected for studies, decisions and area clarifications leading up to a PDO.

Additional acreage

With an application for additional acreage, include a brief description of performed, ongoing and planned work in the existing production licence, and how the additional acreage will be included in the work ahead. If the work programme for the additional acreage is intended to be as for the work programme in the existing production licence, the “as for” box should be ticked. In these circumstances, “Table 3” should not be populated.

If you are applying for additional acreage for a **new** prospect mapped in an existing licence, a separate work program must be proposed for the additional area, including exploration/drilling.

4. Environmental conditions

Comment on any special environmental provisions associated with the applied for area, and how these will be safeguarded during the exploration phase and during development and production.

5. References

References to reports, studies, publications used in the evaluation work