



SOKKELDIREKTORATET

Guide for status reports for surrender, lapse or expiration of a production licence

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to ensure that the authorities receive information with the correct content and format in connection with the status report (also referred to as the relinquishment report).

In accordance with Section 27 (1) of the Resource Management Regulations, the licensee shall submit a status report to the Norwegian Offshore Directorate within 3 months after a production licence is surrendered, lapses or expires.

The status report must summarise any and all collected data, studies conducted and results thereof, as well as provide an overview of prospectivity in the production licence and any prospects in the area comprised by the original licence (previously relinquished acreage). The status report must provide an overview of all geoscience materials and where they are stored, in addition to information about the storage format. The status report shall also include work and studies related to discoveries and fields that are shut down, including assessments of recovery strategies and development solutions. As regards fields that are shut down, assessments of the uncertainty surrounding remaining resources shall also be included.

The status reports are confidential pursuant to Section 85 (4) of the Petroleum Regulations. The duty of confidentiality for interpreted data in status reports will lapse once the licence is surrendered, lapses, expires or once the acreage from which the data is derived is relinquished. The status reports will be published on the Fact Pages.

These guidelines indicate how to fulfil requirements in Section 27 of the Resource Management Regulations. If a format requirement is stated, this will be binding pursuant to Section 4 of the Resource Management Regulations. This means that the information must be submitted/made available in the indicated manner.

2 Status report requirement

A status report must be submitted in the following instances:

- **Surrender**

If the licensee no longer wishes to hold the production licence, it must be surrendered in its entirety. This is governed by Section 3-15 of the Petroleum Act. Surrender can occur with 3 months' notice. As regards production licences in the extension period, surrender also can only occur at the end of each calendar year. The Ministry will generally require that the commitments that follow from the production licence and its requirements are satisfied before surrender is implemented.

- **Lapse**

If a licensee does not make decisions or makes negative decisions in accordance with the work obligation, the production licence will lapse. This is governed by Article 4 of the individual production licence. Such decisions will be drilling decisions, concretisation decisions (BOK), decisions to continue (BOV) and decisions to implement (BOG), i.e. submitting a plan for development and operation (PDO) or plan for installation and operation (PIO). Such decisions must occur by the deadlines stipulated in the work obligation, otherwise the production licence will automatically lapse from when the decision should have been made or from a concrete time stipulated in the production licence.

- **Expiration**

A production licence expires when the period it is awarded for ends and this is not extended. This means at the end of the initial period, extended initial period, extension period or extended extension period.

It is not necessary to submit a status report in the following instances:

- **Relinquishment**

Relinquishment of parts of the acreage covered by the production licence is governed by Section 3-14 of the Petroleum Act. Relinquishment can occur with 3 months' notice. As regards production licences in the extension period, relinquishment also can only occur at the end of each calendar year. The Ministry will generally require that the commitments that follow from the production licence and its requirements are satisfied before relinquishment.

3 Content of the status report

The status report must contain:

- 1. History of the production licence**
- 2. Database overviews**
- 3. Results of geological and geophysical studies**
- 4. Prospect update report**
- 5. Technical assessment**
- 6. Conclusion**

The status report must also contain:

- Maps that clearly show the seismic used in the production licence.
- Maps that clearly show the production licence and outer limits of any prospects, leads and/or discoveries.
- Structure map (depth map) with prospectivity, and profile showing cross-sections of prospects and/or discoveries.

1. History of the production licence (maximum 1 page)

- Award date
- Licensees and operator
- Work obligations with deadlines
- Applications for and decisions to extend deadlines
- Overview of meetings held
- Brief substantiation for surrender/lapse/expiration

2. Database overviews (maximum 1 page, excl. maps/tables)

2.1. Seismic data

- Maps and list of all seismic data sets (collected, reprocessed or acquired) used and whether these are available on the market
- As regards seismic data sets, the survey name and associated NPDID must be stated for the seismic data set(s) acquired, collected (shot), reprocessed or merged
- As regards merged data sets, list which survey(s)/data set(s), with associated NPDID(s), they consist of. Merged data sets do not have a dedicated NPDID.
- If there are final data sets from special geophysical studies, they must be listed (for example velocity models, inversions, AI models/studies)

2.2. Well data

- Listing of wellbores incl. NPDID for well results included in this status report

3. Results of geological, geophysical and technical reservoir studies

(maximum 2 pages, excl. maps/tables)

- List of completed studies to assess the prospectivity in the production licence (mapping, processing, modelling, analyses, decomposition, etc.). Results of completed studies.
- List of static and dynamic models in the production licence.
- Any major change in understanding and expectation based on new data and evaluations compared with the original application for award.

4. Prospect update report (maximum 3 pages, excl. maps/tables)

- Assessment of prospects and/or leads, including those originally referenced in the application(s) for award
- Maps with outlines and tables with the resource potential from the different application summaries that form the basis for the production licence
- Assessment of prospect pursuant to new interpretation/mapping and following any drilling
- Assessment of changes in resource volume and probability estimates (including updated table with resource potential)
- Revised [prospect forms](#) must be enclosed for remaining prospects.
- Prospect forms must be submitted if substantial geoscience work has been undertaken to mature a lead or if a prospect is downgraded to a lead.
- Shapefiles must be submitted for all prospects and leads. As regards prospects, these shapefiles must include polygons for P90, base (mean/mode) and P10.

5. Technical assessment

The applicant shall provide a statement on technical assessments it has conducted as a basis for conclusions concerning potential development of discoveries/lifetime extensions or remaining prospectivity.

For prospects, the description shall be approximately one page. For discoveries and fields that are shut down, a brief description shall be provided which covers the items below.

The following applies for discoveries in the production licence:

- The statement shall explain the uncertainty associated with reservoir and fluid properties, as well as recoverable volumes and volumes in place.
- The statement shall explain results from potential static and dynamic modelling.
- The statement shall explain concept studies, considered development solutions and recovery strategies. Area strategy factors should not be included here.

The following applies for fields that are shut down:

- The statement shall explain remaining resources once production ends, including:
 - Assessment of uncertainty associated with subsurface conditions and remaining resources, including results from the most recent static and dynamic modelling.
 - Any concept studies and recovery strategies that form the basis for re-development or extended operation.

6. Conclusion (maximum 1 page)

- Summary of remaining resource potential in the area
- Substantiation for surrender/lapse/expiration.

The report must be submitted to postboks@sodir.no. The report should preferably be written in English.