



NORWEGIAN PETROLEUM  
DIRECTORATE

# **Guidelines for status reports for surrender, lapse or expiration of a production licence**

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## 1 Introduction

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

In accordance with Section 27 (1) of the Resource Management Regulations, the licensee shall submit a status report to the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate within 3 months after a production licence is surrendered, lapses or expires. The status report requirement applies for production licences awarded as from APA 2006 and production licences awarded as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> licensing round (2012).

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 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 regulated in 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 regulated in 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 production licence.

- **Expiration**

A production licence expires when 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 showing 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.
- Shape files for any discoveries, prospects and leads in the production licence.

#### **3.1 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

#### **3.2 Database overviews (maximum 1 page, excl. maps/tables)**

### **3.2.1 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, one must list which survey(s)/data set(s), with associated NPDID(s), they consist of. Merged data sets do not have a dedicated NPDID.

### **3.2.2 Well data**

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

### **3.3 Results of geological and geophysical studies (maximum 2 pages, excl. maps/tables)**

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

### **3.4 Prospect update report (maximum 3 pages, excl. maps/tables)**

- Assessment of prospect and/or leads, including those originally referenced in the application for award.
- Maps with an outline and table with resource potential from the application summary.
- 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.

### **3.5 Technical assessment (maximum 1 page)**

- Completed technical assessments with conclusion on potential development of discoveries or remaining prospects.

### **3.6 Conclusion (maximum 1 page)**

- Comments on remaining resource potential in the area.
- Substantiation for surrender/lapse/expiration.

The report must be submitted to [postboks@npd.no](mailto:postboks@npd.no). The report should preferably be written in English.