

# Guideline

## *Petroleum Drilling Regulations/Petroleum Regulations (CNR 1150/96)*

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Petroleum Exploration Referral System</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Petroleum Exploration Wells</b></li> <li>- <b>Petroleum Exploration Surveys</b></li> </ul>
<b>Ref:</b>	<b>General</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Drilling Program Approval</b></li> <li>- <b>Authority to Drill a Well</b></li> <li>- <b>Exploration Licences</b></li> </ul>

A review by various Government Department and/or Agencies should be viewed as an initial screening which will help identify:

- potential land use conflicts; and
- permits and approvals required

An application for an exploration survey or a conventional petroleum exploration well and the supporting information could contain substantial technical as well as confidential information not essential for all Government Departments and/or agencies review. This condensed package prepared by the proponent, for submission by the Department to those necessary Departments and/or Agencies, is the preferred means of notifying the appropriate Government Agencies of the operator's intention to drill a well or perform an exploration survey.

It is intended that the submission range from 3 to 5 pages (including photos).

One copy of this document will be forwarded to the Environmental Assessment section of the Department of Environment to allow a determination whether registration is required under the Environmental Assessment Act. Three activities that trigger registration under the Environmental Assessment Act are:

- 1) an undertaking that will occur within 200 metres of the high water mark of a river that is a scheduled salmon river under the *Fisheries Act* (Canada)
- 2) an undertaking that will be engaged in crude oil, natural gas or petroleum production facilities
- 3) construction of roads or the relocation or realignment of existing roads where a portion of the road will be more than 500 metres from an existing right of way.

A simple, concise package covering the following points would normally be sufficient, however, the proponent may wish to deviate or augment the information as it sees fit.

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For petroleum exploration wells, this package would usually consist of:

- (1) LOCATION
  - General description of area for planned operation:
    - NAD 27 co-ordinates
    - 1: 50,000 Scale map depicting location to be attached
- (2) PERMIT HOLDER
  - Name of Permit Holder
- (3) OPERATOR
  - Name of Operator
- (4) DRILLING CONTRACTOR
  - Name of Drilling Contractor
- (5) PURPOSE
  - A brief description of the operators purpose for this drilling program
- (6) TIMING
  - Expected date of rig arrival and expected spud date
- (7) DEPTH
  - Anticipated total depth of the well in metres (m)
- (8) CASING SIZE
  - Size(s) and setting depths of all casing(s)/tubing
- (9) DRILLING FLUID
  - Types of drilling fluids to be used and how these fluids will be stored and disposed
- (10) SITE LAYOUT/EQUIPMENT
  - Overview of site preparation
    - Quarry permits are required for aggregate material taken outside of road right of way for purposes of road construction.
  - Overview of site restoration including disposal of all waste materials.
  - A simple plan of the area to be occupied showing layout and location of:
    - drilling rig
    - mud pit, tanks, mud circulation system
    - auxiliary equipment (including boilers and pressure vessels)
    - fuel storage
    - flare pit
    - protective berms
    - site grading/general topography
    - sanitary facilities
- (11) PROPOSED MEANS OF ACCESS
  - Overview of site preparation including any culvert placement or access road construction.
    - Quarry permits are required for aggregate material taken outside of road right of way for purposes of road construction.

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- (12) PROPOSED MEANS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL
  - Installation of septic system or use of “portable toilets”
- (13) GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE PRIOR TO PROPOSED ACTIVITY  
(Include photos)

A generic example of an information package, site plan and maps for a petroleum exploration are attached for reference.

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**(Name of Well) - ABC  
Petroleum Exploration Well**

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Major elements of the proposed program are as follows:

- Location:** NAD 27 Coordinates: N:  
E:  
The site location will be approximately 40 m x 80 m = 0.32 hectares along the existing road. It is located approximately 4 km southwest of XYZ (town) and 1.75 km south of DE F. Attached is a 1:50,000 scale map depicting location.
- Permit Holder:** ABC
- Operator:** ABC
- Drilling Contractor:** Under review
- Purpose:** ABC proposes to drill a petroleum exploration well to evaluate the oil and gas potential of the 123 formation in the XYZ area.
- Timing:** Well spud date is expected to commence early November and take a maximum of 40 days to drill and evaluate.
- Depth:** TD (X)m
- Size:** Conductor Casing: (?) mm set at (?) m GL  
Surface/Intermediate Casing: (?) mm set at (?) m KB  
Main Hole: Hole (?) mm to (?) m KB
- Drilling Fluid:** Example: The drilling fluid will be completely recycled during normal drilling operations through the use of steel tanks for surface storage. All disposal will be hauled to appropriate disposal sites approved for the purpose or treated by a certified company before disposal if required.
- Site Layout/  
Equipment:** A final drilling rig has not been selected as of yet, therefore specific rig equipment cannot be supplied at this time. However, a flare pit, choke manifold, well site trailer and location and details of berms are identified in the attached sketches.
- Proposed means  
of Access:** Type of access, length, is it existing and what type of access to be constructed (Culvert in ditch of existing road, ATV, vehicle, muskeg etc.)
- Proposed means  
of Sewage Disposal:** Portable chemical toilet, plus storage tank to be drained by approved vacuum truck
- General Description  
of Site prior to  
Proposed Activity:** Include Photos
- Crown Lands Application:** If this operation is to take place on Crown Land then an application must be submitted to the Western Regional Lands Office, Department of Government Services and Lands. A copy of this application is attached. If additional copies are required you can obtain them at [www.gov.nl.ca/env/lands/cla/pdf/ApplicationCrownLands.pdf](http://www.gov.nl.ca/env/lands/cla/pdf/ApplicationCrownLands.pdf)
- Any activity within a municipality needs a Municipal Recommendation Form, which can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions on the Crown Lands Administration website:  
<http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/lands/cla/faq.html>

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