

Title:	Application for Exploration Approval
Number:	ED2006-06
Program Name:	Operations
Effective Date:	Nov 8, 2006
This document was updated on:	Dec 1, 2013

Background

Under Section 23 of the *Exploration Regulation (AR 284/2006)*, a licensee as defined in Section 106 (g) of the *Mines and Minerals Act* or a person authorized by the licensee may apply to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) in writing (a geophysical application) for an exploration approval. The AER may refuse to grant an exploration approval until the applicant has complied with all procedures and requirements set forth in the exploration directives that relate to the application for exploration approval.

Requirements

1. A geophysical application for an exploration approval must be submitted electronically as per the Digital Geophysical Submissions Specifications. These specifications can be viewed or downloaded from the AER website at aer.ca.
2. An application fee of \$350 or an amendment fee of \$175 applies to a geophysical application for an exploration approval. The fee may be paid by cash, certified cheque or money order made payable to the Alberta Minister of Finance.
3. A completed geophysical field report must be submitted with the geophysical application for a geophysical program that is being proposed on public lands. A geophysical application remains incomplete until the geophysical field report form is approved at the field level.
4. The geophysical field report form and the “Policy and Procedures Document for Submitting the Geophysical Field Report Form” can be viewed or downloaded from the AER website at aer.ca.
5. When a geophysical program is **proposed** to be conducted in whole or in part in a Municipality or Special Area, the Municipality or Special Areas Board must:
 - Be notified of the intent to conduct a geophysical operation through the “Notice of Intent for a Geophysical Program” form that is can be viewed or downloaded from the AER website at aer.ca.
 - A signed copy or documentation showing the “Notice of Intent of a Geophysical Program” was delivered must be included as part of the geophysical application for an exploration approval.
6. Application for time lapse seismic programs approval must have “Time Lapse” or “TL” within the prospect name to identify the program as a time lapse seismic program.

7. An application for a Vertical Seismic Profile (VSP) must be submitted digitally.
8. Application must be accompanied by the “Preliminary Geophysical Application Information Cover Sheet” that can be viewed or downloaded from the AER website at aer.ca.
9. Hard copy maps are preferred to be on a 1:50,000 scale. A larger scale may be used for larger programs. Information that is required on the map by the “Preliminary Geophysical Application Information Cover Sheet” must be clearly depicted.
10. Printed copies of all applications for approval must be sent to the public lands land use officer for the public lands on which any part of the program will be conducted.
11. If the program licensee, as defined in Section 1(ee) of the *Exploration Regulation*, is planning to exceed the maximum charge size (20 kg) or the maximum shot hole depth (20 m) described in the Exploration Directive (ED 2006-18) that is associated with Section 49 of the *Exploration Regulation*, the program licensee must:
 - Provide the AER with written justification for exceeding the maximum charge size or hole depth, and
 - Submit a written justification for exceeding the maximum charge size (20 kg) or the maximum shot hole depth (20 m) with the geophysical application.
12. As per Section 49(1) and (2) of the *Exploration Regulation*, an explosive charge cannot be loaded into the hole or the hole drilled beyond the permitted depth until written approval is obtained from the AER.

Procedure

The Application Disposition Processing and Tracking (ADEPT) digital product submissions and the Geophysical Field Report Form must be sent to geosub@aer.ca.

Hard copies (printed copies) for Vertical Seismic Profiles (VSP) must be sent to the Alberta Energy Regulator.

Enforcement/Compliance

Enforcement policy and procedures are currently under review and this directive will be updated accordingly.

Contact Information

Alberta Energy Regulator
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4999 – 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Phone: 1-855-297-8311
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Authorities

Mines and Minerals Act (Part 8) and Exploration Regulation (AR 284/2006)

Approved

Original Signed by _____
Kem Singh, Executive Director
Land and Forestry Policy Branch
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development