Applications for Drilling or Workover Rig Activities

The Department of Mines and Energy (DME) categorizes applications for activities involving drilling or workover rigs as either Project Applications or Operational Applications.

**Project Applications** – occur where approval is required to **commence** (and then carry out) an entire project for which an approval has **not** already been granted.

- *Examples of projects requiring an application for approval*
  - Entering a site to drill a new well
  - Re-entering and working over an existing well
  - Re-entering a well to carry out any particular activity

**Operational Applications** – occur where approval is required to carry out a particular activity within a project which **has already commenced**; that is, an activity where Project Approval has already been granted. Operational activities are ones leading to a specific change to the wellbore geometry and so for this reason, are activities that go outside the already approved work program.

- *Examples of well activities requiring an application for approval*
  - Any activity that goes outside the already approved work program
  - Side tracking a well
  - Suspension (Guidelines available on website)
  - Abandonment
  - Flow testing
  - Stimulating
  - Well Completion

*PLEASE NOTE:*

Project Applications are assessed before the drilling rig commences operations whereas Operational Applications are assessed whilst the rig is in operation. Given the high cost of rig day rates, this can place considerable demands on all human resources. For this reason, it is the responsibility of operators to draw to the Regulator’s attention, notice of any impending operation **as soon as it becomes a possibility**. To avoid rig delays, operators are strongly encouraged to submit draft applications earlier than the 5 day assessment timeframe.
1. PROJECT APPLICATIONS

1. Allow a minimum of 30 days for assessment

2. Depending on the type of project, the following documentation is or may be required as part of the assessment process of a Project Application:
   - a letter of application that makes specific reference to Clause(s) under which the activity requires approval, and is signed by the custodian of the project.
   - the proposed Drilling, Workover or Stimulation Program
   - the proposed Environment Plan (see below)
   - the proposed Safety Management Plan
   - Insurance Certificate(s)
   - the proposed Oil Spill Contingency Plan
   - the proposed Emergency Response Plan
   - the proposed Baseline Water Study (particularly for Stimulation Projects)
   - MSDSs for lodgement on DME’s Website
   - a completed Rehabilitation Security Calculation Form
   - copies of Cultural Clearances and letters from stakeholders

The proposed program should be identified by document number and current version number and be dated and signed off by the custodian of the project.

3. After Approval:
   - Payment of Rehabilitation Security Deposit before commencement of operations
   - Environment Plan Summary for lodgement on DME’s Website to be submitted within 7 days of approval of the Environment Plan is granted

NOTE: OPERATIONS ARE NOT TO COMMENCE UNTIL ALL REQUIRED APPROVALS FROM NT DME AND OTHER APPROVING AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED
2. OPERATIONAL APPLICATIONS

- Allow a minimum of 5 days for assessment; HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT CHANGES COULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIALLY LONGER TO ASSESS
- The letter of application should make specific reference to Clause(s) under which the activity requires approval, and be signed by the custodian of the project.
- The application letter should be supported by:
  - an addendum to the approved Project Work Program - including current well schematic. The addendum should be numbered, dated and signed by the project custodian.
  - any bridging documents or addendums to the approved Project’s Environmental Management Plan and/or other relevant supporting documents.
  - The proposed final well schematic

3. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence concerning project or operational applications (letters, supporting documents etc.) **should be in electronic format only**, and be sent by email to:

DIRECTOR OF ENERGY
Attn: Senior Energy Engineer

at: directorenergy@nt.gov.au, and petroleum.operations@nt.gov.au

ADDITIONAL GUIDING INFORMATION


- Operators are encouraged to contact DME staff at any time to clarify issues or discuss options.