

Guidelines for submission of *scope of project* for *offshore* hydrocarbon exploration activities





Applicants wishing to conduct offshore exploration activities in Greenland shall submit a *preliminary scope (pre-scope)* of the project to the Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) before 1 December the year before the activity is to be carried out. In case of exploration drilling with release of drilling mud and cuttings to the seabed the *pre-scope* must be submitted at least 19 months before the drilling activity is planned to commence, in order to take into account the baseline studies. The *pre-scope* shall be drafted in English.

The *pre-scope* must contain the following:

1. A brief description of the activity applied for; containing (as far as possible, recognizing that information on ships, other equipment etc. may not be available at the time the *pre-scope* is written):
 - Licence number and licensee
 - Summary of operation programme including:
 - purpose of the operation
 - information on the operator of the operation
 - logistics of the operation
 - type of exploration activity and acquisition methodology
 - use/discharge of materials/chemicals and their application
 - operation period, including timing of planned entry into Greenland waters, planned commencement of data acquisition and planned completion of the operation
 - operation area
 - overview of used vessels
 - time period for the deployment and a plan for the retrieval of equipment left at sea
 - in case of seismic surveys following information is needed:
 - type of survey: 2D, 3D, VSP etc.
 - the airguns planned to be used: volume, source level (in dB re 1 μ Pa (peak-peak), etc.
 - outline of the planned seismic lines
 - spacing of seismic lines
 - streamer type
2. Evaluation of expected environmental impacts and plans for how to mitigate and reduce them.



Based on the *pre-scope* evaluation of the environmental impacts EAMRA will within two weeks decide:

- #1 if there is a risk of significant environmental impacts implying that an *environmental impact assessment* (EIA) of the activity shall be prepared,
- #2 if the environmental impacts will be minor/limited implying that an *environmental mitigation assessment* (EMA) of the activity shall be prepared,
- #3 if the environmental impacts will be negligible e.g. similar to normal shipping implying that no specific environmental report (EIA or EMA) shall be prepared.

In case of #1 the *pre-scope* shall be amended to a *final draft of the scope* incorporating comments from EAMRA. This *final draft* (in Greenlandic, English and Danish) shall be ready for a public pre-consultation for 35 days. After the pre-consultation period has ended a white paper must be prepared by the applicant with responses to the consultation comments. The white paper shall as soon as possible be submitted together with the *final scope* of the project to be approved by EAMRA. A *draft EIA* shall then be submitted to EAMRA by 1 March (see specific guidelines).

In case #2 the *pre-scope* will not be subject to a public pre-consultation and a draft EMA shall be submitted to EAMRA by 1 March (see specific guidelines).

In case of #3 the *pre-scope* will not be subject to a public pre-consultation and the environmental issues shall be included in the general application documents, although supplementary information may be required by EAMRA.

Applications for drilling - both exploration and stratigraphic drilling – will always require an EIA, see specific guidelines.





If the drilling implies release of drilling mud and cuttings to the seabed, results of a baseline survey, including quantitative seabed faunal and chemical analyses, is required to be incorporated into the EIA. Such baseline surveys are usually carried out the summer prior to drilling and therefore imply a work program usually covering at least two summer seasons.

Seismic acquisition will in many cases require an *EMA*, but where there is a risk for more significant environmental impacts an *EIA* will be required, see specific guidelines.

Most other offshore exploration activities e.g. seabed sampling, deployment of oceanographic equipment, use of wave gliders, passive sampling of physical data etc. will usually not require a specific environmental assessment (*EIA* or *EMA*), and the information given in the scope and application documents, occasionally supplemented with specifically required information will in most cases be sufficient.

Timeline of the *scoping* process:

	Deadline	Languages the document shall be submitted in
Submission of <i>pre-scope</i>	1 December	English
EAMRA evaluation of <i>pre-scope</i>	15 December	
Submission of <i>final draft of scope</i> (only EIA)	1 January	English, Greenlandic, Danish
Public pre-consultation for 35 days of <i>final draft of scope</i> (only EIA)	5 January-9 February	English, Greenlandic, Danish
<i>White paper</i> and final scope (only relevant for EIA)	As soon as possible after pre-consultation period ends	English, Greenlandic, Danish
Approval by EAMRA		
Submission of Draft <i>EIA/EMA</i>	1 March	English, Greenlandic, Danish