



**NORWEGIAN OFFSHORE
DIRECTORATE**

**Guidelines for status report before
production start-up of new fields**

Published: September 2021

Revised: June 2024

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Introduction

According to the Regulations relating to resource management in the petroleum activities (Resource Management Regulations, RMR) Section 32, the licensees shall submit a status report to the Norwegian Offshore Directorate no later than nine weeks before production is planned to start on a field. The status report shall describe changes that occurred after the plan for development and operation (PDO) was approved or after an exemption was granted for such a plan. This comprises measures, basic data, interpretations, etc., that are of significance for recovery from the field.

This report shall provide the authorities with a status update on resource-related aspects at the start-up date with emphasis on changes in basic data and any measures in relation to the original plans. This report will also provide a basis for assessing the future production cycle for the field. The report will serve as supporting documentation both in connection with the application for a production permit pursuant to Section 4-4 of the Petroleum Act and Section 23 of the Petroleum Regulations, as well as in connection with the application for consent to start-up pursuant to Section 30a (2) (a) of the Petroleum Regulations.

The deadline for submitting this report is no later than nine weeks before production is planned to start, cf. Section 32 of the RMR. The report must be submitted to the following e-mail address: postboks@sodir.no.

The guidelines provide guidance on how requirements in Resource Management Regulations Section 32 can be fulfilled. The objective of these guidelines is to ensure that the report contains an adequate account of any changes following PDO approval or PDO exemption. The guidelines are prescriptive, and the specific content must be adapted to the individual field/deposit, depending on the scope of the changes since the PDO was approved. It is therefore recommended that the licensees contact the Norwegian Offshore Directorate at an early stage to clarify any questions regarding the content of the report or these guidelines.

The report shall only describe changes made after the PDO which are or may be of significance for recovery from the field. It must provide an account of how potential changes are implemented in the reservoir model and production cycle. Changes that have already been documented in report form must be referenced in Chapter 8. New data that has been reported in a different manner (e.g., from pre-drilled wells) shall not be included. Interpretations and application of new data must be described, with emphasis on the significance this new data will have for recovery.

1 General Information

1.1 Ownership Interests in the Production Licence

Any changes in the licensee group must be stated.

1.2 Conditions

Any conditions set in connection with the approval of PDO or PDO exemption, including implemented or planned measures, must be stated.

2 Geology and Reservoir Evaluation

2.1 Geological Data and Model

The report must state whether any new seismic data, interpretation, modelling or structural geological studies have changed the view of the deposit. If the result of seismic studies has entailed a change in well placement, resources or the scope of deposits included in the PDO, this must be accounted for.

Updated structure maps and changed outlines (new shape files) must be enclosed with the report. Any change in nomenclature/naming, zoning, zone divisions for new wells, re-interpretation of sedimentation environment, reservoir geometry and new model building (stochastic/deterministic) must be described. New wells must be shown with the CPI log and zoning.

2.2 Technical Reservoir Data and Model

Briefly explain any changes in simulation model after PDO approval which are of significance for the production profiles.

Changes in resources and reserves since the last RNB reporting (STOOIP/GOIP, reserves with associated uncertainty), contrasted with the resource estimates in the PDO must be explained. The report must provide a summary of the reasons for the most important changes.

Explain changes in production forecasts since the last RNB reporting, contrasted with the forecasts in the PDO. The report must provide a summary of the reasons for the most important changes.

2.3 Data Acquisition and Reservoir Monitoring

Any changes in general plans or strategies for data acquisition must be described, e.g., logging/core samples, formation testing/well allocation.

2.4 Additional Resources and Area Assessment

Provide an overview over additional resources mapped or proven after PDO approval, including potential phase-in time and method(s).

3 Production Strategy

3.1 Changes in Well Design/Placement

Provide an overview over new planned wells. Planned and potential pre-drilled wellbores must be shown on maps and potential cross-sections for the individual reservoir zones.

Describe any changes after the PDO, e.g., new pilot/observation wells, change in drilling sequence or well names.

3.2 Changes in Perforation/Drainage Strategy

Changes in the general perforation/drainage strategy for production and injection wells must be stated.

3.3 Improved Recovery

Methods for improved recovery that have been studied or planned after PDO approval must be briefly described.

4 Development Concept

4.1 Field Status

Describe any changes in development concept and planned production start-up after PDO approval.

4.2 Capacities

Changes after PDO approval in treatment/injection capacities for oil, water and gas must be stated.

4.3 Production Chemistry

Describe briefly any changed/new problem areas (scale, wax, sand production etc).

4.4 Fuel for Power and Heat Generation, Flaring and Cold Venting

The anticipated volume of gas for fuel must be stated. Describe assumptions used in the application for emission allowances for flaring and cold venting.

The plan for starting up production/injection, as well as running in process equipment with a view toward preventing flaring and cold venting beyond what is necessary for safety reasons must be enclosed with the report.

5 Cost Development and Profitability

Account for any changes in cost estimates and profitability since the last RNB reporting, contrasted with the cost estimates in the PDO. Note that the profitability should be shown as present value before tax. Use the operator's assumptions as a basis but discount rate as in the PDO.

Describe financial challenges since PDO approval which have affected the resource estimate or have led to postponing the project.

6 Delivery Security

Describe any changes in assumptions for delivery/export, including regularity and vulnerability.

7 Orders from other Authorities

Any orders from other authorities, including implemented or planned measures, must be listed.

8 References

List references to reports distributed from the licensees to the Norwegian Offshore Directorate where new data or changes are documented.