

Practice Direction

Submission of Geophysical Data

Practice Direction 1

26 March 2021

Version 2.4

1.1 Purpose

This practice direction forms part of the practice manual maintained by the Chief Executive under s202 of the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* (the MERC Act). It provides directions about what information, documents or instruments a person must give, the format a person must supply the information in, and how or when the requested information must be given.

1.2 Application

This practice direction provides guidance about the information, documents or instruments a person must give in respect to geophysical surveys undertaken by a person under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MRA).

Where this direction conflicts with the statutory requirements of the MRA or regulation, the legislation or regulation prevails to the extent of any inconsistency in respect of geophysical data.

Geophysical data is used by the Queensland Government in support of its geoscience projects, and by the mines and petroleum industry in support of their exploration programs. To facilitate these uses the Geological Survey of Queensland (GSQ) has adopted a custodial role for geophysical data. This allows GSQ use of relevant data and release of the data into the public domain after confidentiality provisions have been met.

Submission of geophysical data, and subsequent public release of this data, also meets the needs of the exploration industry for survey data whereby they do not have to re-acquire data. GSQ acts as a digital data exchange for industry and promotes cost effective data capture and research for resource exploration.

This practice direction has been developed to ensure that the data GSQ receives is consistent in format and received in a timely manner across the range of resources legislation.

The practice direction supports the objectives of the State in its role as custodian of its natural resources through:

- providing clear guidance on how industry should submit geophysical data to GSQ;
- encouraging and facilitating exploration by providing a reliable geophysical database in Queensland; and
- enhancing the knowledge of natural mineral and petroleum resources by using new geophysical data in support of the Queensland Government's geoscience programs.

1.3 Data to be submitted

Geophysical data, with the exception of multi-client survey data, shall be supplied to the GSQ free of charge. The data shall consist of the following:

Notice to the GSQ

A 'Notification of Geophysical Survey' in the accepted Resources form ([available on the website](#)) must be completed and submitted through the [GSQ Lodgement Portal](#) within 10 business days after the completion of a geophysical (seismic, scientific or technical) survey.

A survey will be assigned a unique identifier and summary information from these notices will be incorporated into an open file database.

Final survey data

Survey data must be provided for the entire survey within six months of the completion of the survey.

The data is to be submitted either as:

- part of a required annual report; or
- a separate 'Geophysical Survey Report – Final' in the GSQ Lodgement Portal

If a survey has been completed within two months of the annual report due date, to allow adequate time for data processing, it can be submitted after the annual report, within six months as a "Geophysical Survey Report - Final". This report will form part of the next annual report for the permit.

Data is to be submitted in accordance with the Minerals and Coal Reporting Practice Direction. The data must include:

Geophysics (non-seismic)

- Located line data in GDA2020
- Gridded data in GDA2020 (*if applicable*)
- GIS format survey outline polygons in GDA2020 (*if applicable*)
- Acquisition report
- Processing report (*if applicable*)
- Interpretation report (*if applicable*)
- Waveform data (*if applicable*)

Geophysics (seismic)

- Seismic Acquisition Summary
- Seismic Processing Summary
- Seismic 2D Lines and 3D Coverage
- Seismic Data (raw)
- Seismic Data (processed)

Geophysical survey notifications and data are required to be submitted through the [GSQ Lodgement Portal](#). For any assistance contact: GSQOpenData@resources.qld.gov.au.

1.4 Data confidentiality

Digital data will remain confidential until the following open file criteria are met:

Mineral exploration reports and data under the MRA

Geophysical data from surveys acquired under the MRA will become open file five years after the date of survey, or on expiry, surrender or cancellation of the associated exploration tenure, whichever is the sooner.

Open range surveys

Data from 'open range surveys' will become open file five years after the date collected.

Data access by Geological Survey of Queensland officers

During the confidentiality period, the Department's officers shall be allowed access to the data for use in GSQ's geoscience projects. Public disclosure of identifiable data will not be made.

Data as an asset

The Queensland Government acknowledges the data as a company asset, which may be traded. Submission requirements and confidentiality conditions, however, are not affected.

1.5 Multi-client surveys

The Queensland Government encourages multi-client surveys to be undertaken and wishes to be notified. While not requiring multi-client survey data to be submitted, Resources and GSQ welcomes conditional access to the data to support relevant geoscience programs.

1.6 Definitions

'Exploration Survey' any aerial geophysical survey of which more than 30% is conducted over ground held under exploration tenures.

'Geophysics' is the investigation of the near-surface and subsurface using physical fields.

'Geophysical data' may include (but is not limited to) magnetic, radiometric, electromagnetic, gravity, electrical, seismic, magnetotelluric and hyperspectral data. Geophysical data may be obtained by aerial or ground methods.

'Multi-client' surveys are those surveys conducted to supply data to an open market by non-exploration companies. Multi-client surveys and certain experimental surveys are not subject to the data submission requirements of the MRA.

'Open Range Survey' An aerial geophysical survey of which less than 30% (or none) is conducted over ground held under exploration tenures.

'Open file' means data that are non-confidential and consequently, available to the public.

'Person' includes a reference to a corporation as well as an individual.

1.7 Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Queensland Government should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

1.8 Authorisation

Approved by:

Director

Regulatory Support and Performance

October 2020

Document information

Availability and location: External – Business Industry Portal

Owner and approver: Director, Regulatory Support and Performance, Georesources Division

Future Review date: October 2021

Related documents: Minerals and Coal Reporting Practice Direction

Contacts: For help and information about this practice direction, please contact the Geological Survey of Survey on +617 3035 5274 or email geophysics@resources.qld.gov.au.

Keywords

Practice Direction 1; Department of Resources; Practice Direction; Submission of Geophysical Survey Data; Geophysical; Survey; Data; MRA; Notification of Geophysical Survey; GSQ