

**Practice Direction**  
**Submission of Geophysical Survey**  
**Data under Resources Legislation**

Practice Direction 1/2013  
December 2012  
Version 2.2

July 2020

This publication has been compiled by Regulatory Support and Performance of Georesources Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

© State of Queensland, 2017

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of its information. The copyright in this publication is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence.

Under this licence you are free, without having to seek our permission, to use this publication in accordance with the licence terms.



You must keep intact the copyright notice and attribute the State of Queensland as the source of the publication.

Note: Some content in this publication may have different licence terms as indicated.

For more information on this licence, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The Queensland Government shall not be liable for technical or other errors or omissions contained herein. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this information.

*This practice direction forms part of the practice manual maintained by the Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) section 202 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.*

## **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 following resources legislation:

- *Mineral Resources Act 1989;*
- *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*
- *Petroleum Act 1923*
- *Geothermal Energy Act 2010*
- *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*

This practice direction is also applicable to the regulations that correspond to each of the resource Acts.

This practice direction applies to all persons who acquire geophysical data for a purpose relating to the resources legislation.

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

## **Purpose**

Geophysical data is used by the Government of Queensland 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 these 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:

- 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.

## **Data to be submitted**

Geophysical data, with the exception of multi-client survey data, shall be forwarded to the Geological Survey of Queensland, free of charge. The data shall consist of the following:

### ***Notice to the Geological Survey of Queensland***

A 'Notification of Geophysical Survey' in the accepted DNRME form (available on the website) must be completed and submitted within 10 business days after the completion of a geophysical (seismic, scientific or technical) survey.

Summary information from these notices will be incorporated into an open file database. Survey location information must be shown as the actual survey boundaries for both exploration and open range surveys.

### ***Final survey data***

All survey data must be provided for the entire survey within 6 months of the completion of the survey. The data is to be submitted either as part of a required annual report, or where no report is required in the accepted DNRME form which forms part of the practice direction.

Where the data is submitted as part of a required annual report, the department has determined that the data may be submitted with the next annual report up to 1 year 2 months after final completion to allow adequate time for data processing in circumstances where the survey is completed within two months of the annual report due date.

Data is to be submitted in accordance with the 'Queensland Digital Exploration Reports System Guidelines for the submission of digital company reports', available on the department's website. The data must include:

- 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*)

## **Data confidentiality**

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

### ***Exploration surveys***

#### **Mineral exploration reports and data under the Mineral Resources Act 1989**

Geophysical data from surveys acquired as 'exploration surveys' will become open file five years after the date flown, or on expiry, surrender or cancellation of the associated exploration tenure, whichever is the sooner. If data confidentiality is required beyond this period the tenure holder must request an extension with reasons. An extension of confidentiality beyond five years from the date flown will not normally be granted.

## **Petroleum, Geothermal and Greenhouse Gas exploration reports**

Details of confidentiality periods for various reports and data are contained in Schedule 1 of the Petroleum and Gas (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 [for petroleum tenures administered under the *Petroleum Act 1923* and for petroleum authorities administered under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*].

Details of confidentiality period for various reports and data are contained in section 62 of the Geothermal Energy Regulation 2012 (for geothermal tenures administered under the Geothermal Energy Act 2010).

Details of confidentiality period for various reports and data are contained in section 29 of the Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulation (for GHG authorities administered under the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009).

The provisions in each are essentially the same in that data from surveys acquired as 'exploration surveys' will become open file three years after the survey completion, or on expiry, surrender or cancellation of the associated exploration tenure, whichever is the sooner. If data confidentiality is required beyond this period the tenure holder must request an extension with reasons. An extension of confidentiality beyond three years from the date collected will not normally be granted.

### ***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 Geological Survey of Queensland'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.

## **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, DNRME and GSQ welcomes conditional access to the data to support relevant geoscience programs.

## **Submission of materials**

All data and survey notifications should be submitted in accordance with the timeframes specified in this practice direction either as part of annual report submission or directly to the Geological Survey of Queensland. The notification form (available on the website) is not designed to replace current notice of intention to conduct seismic surveys or completion of seismic survey as outlined under section 31 and 32 of the Petroleum and Gas (General Provisions) Regulation 2017.

Geophysical survey notifications and data (except seismic data) are required to be submitted to:

Geophysics  
Geological Survey of Queensland  
PO Box 15216  
City East Qld 4002

Alternatively, data or survey notifications may be submitted to [geophysics@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:geophysics@dnrme.qld.gov.au)

Seismic data are required to be submitted to:

Seismic Data Officer  
Exploration Data Centre  
Geological Survey of Queensland  
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy  
68 Pineapple Street  
ZILLMERE QLD 4043

## Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with this practice direction may result in noncompliance being taken under section 412 of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, section 790 and 791 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, section 379 and 380 of the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009* and Section 320 and 321 of the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010*.

It is an offence to provide false and misleading information under section 404D of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, section 813 of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, section 392 of the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009* and Section 332 of the *Geothermal Energy Act 2010*.

## Rights of appeal

Persons aggrieved by an administrative decision made under an enactment may, within 28 days of notification of the decision, apply in writing to the decision-maker for a statement of reasons under Part 4 of the *Judicial Review Act 1991*.

## Definitions

**'Aerial geophysical survey data'** means any data obtained by airborne (but not satellite) activity  
**'Exploration Survey'** any 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 flown 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'** any 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.

## Legislation

*Judicial Review Act 1991*  
*Geothermal Energy Act 2010*  
*Geothermal Energy Regulation 2010*  
*Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*  
*Greenhouse Gas Storage Regulation 2010*  
*Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014*  
*Mineral Resources Act 1989*  
*Mineral Resources Regulation 2013*  
*Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*  
*Petroleum and Gas (General Provisions) Regulation 2017*  
*Petroleum Act 1923*

## Version history

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	December 2012	Endorsed and Created (Converted from Operational Policy 129)
1.1	August 2015	Updated reference to Mineral Resources Regulation 2013
2.0	September 2016	Updated to reflect the MERCPC Act
2.1	September 2017	Updated with the General Provisions Regulation 2017
2.2	July 2020	Update datum to GDA2020

## Approved by:

Executive Director  
Mining and Petroleum Operations  
September 2017

## Enquiries:

Geological Survey of Queensland  
Telephone: +617 3035 5274  
Email: [geophysics@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:geophysics@dnrme.qld.gov.au)

## 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.*