

**Department of Energy
Request for Exploration Proposals Process
Onshore Nova Scotia**

- A call for exploration proposals is part of the regular business of the Department of Energy and is an important step in measuring the level of industry interest in a particular area. In no way does it give companies permission to proceed with any activity.
- Since 2003, nine calls for exploration proposals have been issued by the Department of Energy.
- Once proposals are received, they are evaluated. If a successful proposal is identified, government can then enter into a lease arrangement with the interested proponent. A lease agreement does not give a company permission to proceed with drilling or any other activity.
- A company can only undertake an activity by making an application to the Department of Energy outlining the specific proposed activity. At that time, the application goes before the one-window committee of relevant government departments and is reviewed by an independent drilling engineer.
- This process also includes a review and approval by Nova Scotia Environment. Nova Scotia Environment requires any company looking to pursue an activity, including hydraulic fracturing, to submit an application for an Industrial Approval. This application includes details about the area where the activity is proposed, including proximity to water courses; details on fluids, including handling and disposal; monitoring of fluids, and an emergency response plan. Nova Scotia Environment also requires a complete list of any chemicals to be used. Approvals contain project-specific terms and conditions and public consultation may be required.
- In addition, an Industrial Approval from Nova Scotia Environment must be obtained by the company. The Department of Energy also requires the company to conduct a public open house to provide information to the community on what is being proposed. The company must also have the permission of the land owner if the proposed activity is taking place on private land.
- There are no general or blanket approvals given to companies to explore in Nova Scotia.