

Appendix 1

Draft Plan – Licensing Round Announcement

1 Minister Power extends area on offer for oil and gas exploration licenses under the 2009 Rockall Licensing Round

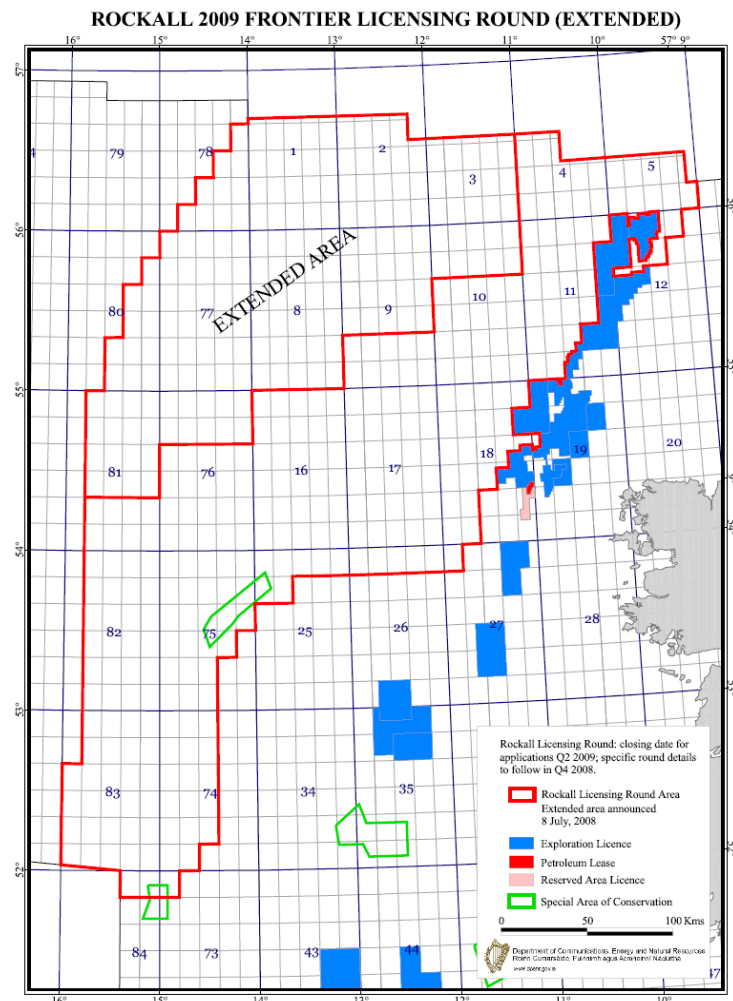
Dublin, 8 July, 2008

Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Mr. Seán Power T.D. today announced that he has decided to extend the area to be opened for licensing in the 2009 Rockall Licensing Round to include the north-western margin of the Rockall Basin. This will bring the total acreage on offer under the round to 117,100 square kilometres.

In announcing the expanded area, the Minister said that “this is the first time since 1997, that such a major part of the Rockall Basin has been the subject of a licensing round. Recent technical studies have indicated a significant petroleum potential within the Rockall Basin. It is timely, therefore, that the oil and gas exploration industry be offered an opportunity to commit to invest in new exploration programmes in the basin.”

The Minister said that building on the success of the two most recent licensing rounds (Porcupine 2008 and Slyne\Erris\Donegal 2006) and the increased pace of drilling activity offshore Ireland, he was confident that the Rockall Round would attract significant interest from exploration companies.

Applications for Frontier Exploration Licences covering blocks in the round will be invited in quarter four 2008 with a closing date for applications in quarter two 2009.





2 Rockall 2009 Frontier Licensing Round

April 2008

The Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources will hold a licensing round in the Rockall Basin in 2009. The acreage on offer will cover unlicensed blocks in an area of approximately 71,900 square kilometres. The area has been classified as a Frontier Area.

Applications for Frontier Exploration Licences covering blocks in the round will be invited in Q4 2008 with a closing date for applications in Q2 2009. The invitation to apply will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and on the Department's Website <http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/>.

The Department has engaged the services of a team of marine environmental consultants, lead by ERT (Scotland) Ltd, to undertake a comprehensive strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the region. The report of that SEA will be available to parties interested in applying for licences under the round in advance of the closing date for the licensing round.

Enquiries regarding the Rockall Licensing Round can be made to:

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