

Licence Process



Exploration licence

1 Application

- An application for an exploration licence in an open area can be submitted to the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy: mijnbouwaanvragen@minezk.nl
- There are no licence rounds. Apply at any time!
- The application is free of charge

2 Publication EU journal & counter applications

- An invitation for counter-applications is placed in the Official Journal of the European Union and in the Dutch Government Gazette
- Interested parties have 13 weeks from the date of publication in the Official Journal of the European Union to submit a competitive application

3 Assessment

- The Ministry requests advice of the TNO-Advisory Group for Economic Affairs (TNO-AGE), EBN and the Dutch State Supervision of Mines (SodM)
- TNO-AGE, EBN and SodM will issue recommendations concerning various aspects of the application within 6 weeks
- The Minister seeks the advice of the Mining Council with regard to the licence
- The Council meets 10 times a year



4 Evaluation licence application

- In accordance with the provisions in the Mining Act, the Minister issues a decision on the licence application no later than 6 months after the period for submitting counter-applications ended. The Minister can extend the decision-making period by maximum 6 months

5 Licence effective

- The decision to award the exploration licence is announced in the Dutch Government Gazette
- The exploration licence is effective one day after publication

6 Licence irrevocable

- If the licence is not contested within 6 weeks after publication in the Dutch Government Gazette, the licence becomes irrevocable



Production licence



1 Application

- There are no licence rounds. Apply at any time!
- The application is free of charge
- No counter-applications are accepted if the applicant already holds the exploration licence
- As part of the application, the applicant must demonstrate that the mineral or geothermal resources found in the licence area are economically viable

2 Assessment 1

- The Ministry requests advice of TNO-AGE, EBN and SodM
- TNO-AGE will perform a geological assessment
- EBN will perform a financial assessment
- SodM advises on the technical capacities of operators
- Recommendations concerning the application will be issued within 3 to 6 months

3 Assessment 2

- The Minister seeks the advice of the Mining Council with regard to the licence
- The Council meets 10 times a year



4 Evaluation licence application

- In accordance with the provisions in the Mining Act, the Minister issues a decision on the licence application no later than 6 months after the period for submitting counter-applications ended. The Minister can extend the decision-making period by maximum 6 months

5 Licence effective

- The decision to award the production licence is announced in the Dutch Government Gazette
- The production licence is effective one day after publication

6 Licence irrevocable

- If the licence is not contested within 6 weeks after publication in the Dutch Government Gazette, the licence becomes irrevocable

