

The logo for BVEG (Bundesverband Erdgas, Erdöl und Geoenergie e.V.) is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters 'B', 'V', and 'E' are connected, and the 'G' is separate. A vertical white line is positioned to the left of the logo.

BVEG

Guidelines for publication

Publishing geoscientific papers

as of 08/2014

Bundesverband Erdgas,
Erdöl und Geoenergie e. V.

1. Basic principles

The exchange and the publication of scientific data as well as its evaluation are essential for the successful exploration and production of hydrocarbons. It is therefore desirable to intensify the communication at national and international levels between scientists working for corporations in the field of research, and the institutions. For this reason, corporations that are involved in exploration and production, and are members of the Bundesverband Erdgas, Erdöl und Geoenergie e.V., take a positive stand on publishing research. However, the respective authors' understanding is expected regarding certain restrictions of the data, collected under considerable financial expense, their know-how and the use of data evaluations. Restrictions are necessary to preserve the rights held by corporations.

The Geoscientific Board ("Geowissenschaftlicher Ausschuss"), appointed by the Bundesverband, is generally responsible for reviewing whether a proposed publication corresponds with the corporations' protection requirements. This task is delegated to those corporations that provided data. The guidelines of 1984 are specified more precisely in this revised version and adapted to current developments. Experience has shown that the work of authors was facilitated when guidelines offered information about the volume of data and findings allowed to be published and how to proceed for approval for publishing.

Publications based on industry-owned data should be produced primarily by staff of corporations that collected data and findings through investments or by those who collected data and produced findings commissioned by corporations (research cooperation with universities, colleges and state agencies, such as institutions). In the latter, a co-authorship with staff of those corporations who commissioned the work should always be strived for.

Staff of geologic agencies at federal and state level can also publish scientific papers based on the data collected via geologic exchange or via the obligation to supply due to the Bundesberggesetz (Federal Mining Act) and the Lagerstättengesetz (Mineral Deposits Act).

The principle that corporations which supply data are to be contacted before starting research in order to implement possible co-authorship with industrial scientists, also applies.

Generally, the complete manuscripts (abstracts, lectures and/or printing or posters) have to be submitted for authorisation.

2. General guidelines

Requests for authorisation to publish have to be submitted to the respective consortium via the company that supplied the data.

Publications are:

- Abstracts for journals, conference documents and other materials
- Posters
- Presentations
- Articles in Journals, books such as printing or electronic media
- Books, study guides, guides for excursions and other
- Academic theses
- Audio and visual representations

Scheduled publications should be discussed in advance with the corporations/consortia that supplied data to avoid unnecessary revisions. Any publication based on unpublished data by the E&P industry has to be submitted for authorisation.

The respective corporations review submitted manuscripts benevolently and in the interests of facilitation of science and scientific dialogue in a short, but adequate time frame. If revisions are required, authors will be informed whether the manuscript has to be resubmitted. Conditions, required by an authorised consortium, are to be complied with. In exceptional cases, the Geoscientific Board can decide on the release and further use of information directly.

3. Approval procedures

- Every publication has to be submitted for authorisation to the corporation that provided the data. The decision for publication clearance is made involving all associate corporations.
- Requests for authorisation have to be submitted in written form six weeks before scheduled publication at best, but at least four weeks before.
- Applications for authorisation have to contain at least an extract and all images. They are to be submitted in standard electronic digital format. Approval for a printed edition of an already approved presentation has to be applied for separately
- The decision on an application to publish will be communicated to the members of the Geoscientific Board. The author and title suffice for this. All applications and decisions to publish are centrally administered through the Geoscientific Board in this manner.
- If a request is addressed directly to the Geoscientific Board or the BVEG, it will be redirected to the leader of the respective consortium.

4. Comments on restrictions in publishing

4.1 Methodical publications

Generally, these publications are not subject to restrictions, if

- no usable know-how of corporations or that won from research co-operations of corporations with scientific institutions is affected and
- there is no direct connection to the exploration and exploitation goals of the corporations.

4.2 Representation of depth

Information on depth and location can be sensitive. The procedure will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Restrictions on representation of depth (structural maps, cross sections, block models, seismic sections) depend on scale and the representation of data of drilling and measurements. There are few restrictions for generalized structural maps.

4.3 Reservoir data

Publishing of depths, petrophysical data, analysis values, pore fluids, parameters for reservoirs, such as pressure etc., and information on the content of reservoirs (reserves etc.) is generally restricted. Publications of case examples and aspects of methodical aspects can be authorised. It is recommended to seek approval by the corporations that provide the data for publishing before starting.

4.4 Geochemical data

The publication of geochemical data is also restricted. Here, it is also recommended to seek approval by the corporations that provide the data for publishing before starting.

4.5 Seismic and well log data

Representation of 2D/3D seismic and well log data is subject to broad restrictions. Geophysical data of surfaces is generally more conclusive than of single well log data, which means that publication of such data is only possible if no conclusions can be made on the aims of the exploration and exploitation.

5. Results of analyses financed with public funds

If studies and research proposals are in part or in total financed with public funds (eg. DFG) using data, interpretations, and provided results by corporations – publishing is generally common, desired and required.

Respective contracts/arrangements should consider possible restrictions, i.e. approval procedures should regulate publishing in such a way that publications by public institutions that are not obliged to supply information in accordance with the Environmental Information Act (UIG), are generally not authorised before agreed upon with the industrial affiliates.

6. Studies by public institutions that are obligated to supply information in line with UIG

Studies by public institutions that are obliged to supply information in accordance with UIG and that have been carried out on the basis of geoscientific data of the E&P industry have to be made available to the BVEG before publishing.