

Rep. Chris Tuck had these questions regarding HCR 19, Norway Policy Tour:

QUESTIONS:

"When a new area is open for oil drilling in Norway, about How many oil companies on average submit proposals?

And what is the longevity of existing companies and how many new companies are submitting proposals?"

RESPONSE:

Ole Anders Lindseth
Director General of the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum & Energy

With regard to your questions I send you the following information:

Before announcing numbered licensing rounds on the NCS the oil companies are invited to nominate blocks they want to see included in an upcoming round. The invitations are sent to all licensees on the NCS and pre-qualified companies. On average over the last 6 years 29 companies have made nominations. These are the numbers for each of the last 6 years:

22. licensing round:	37 companies
21. licensing round:	43 companies
20. licensing round:	46 companies
19. licensing round:	19 companies
18. licensing round:	14 companies
<u>17. licensing round:</u>	<u>16</u> companies
Average:	29 companies

The number of new companies nominating blocks for the upcoming rounds depends on the definition of a new company. Inserted is a link to a list over companies nominating blocks for the 22. licensing round.

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/oed/press-center/press-releases/2012/record-interest-in-barents-sea-in-22nd-l.html?id=670318>

A new company would typically be a company which is pre-qualified but not yet a licensee on the NCS. Inserted is a link to a list over pre-qualified companies on the NCS.

<http://www.npd.no/en/Topics/Production-licences/Theme-articles/Pre-qualification/>

As you can see, none of the most recently pre-qualified companies nominated blocks for the 22. licensing round.

Concerning longevity, the majority of the licensees are here for the long haul, so the stability over time is noticeable.

I hope this gives you the factual background you were looking for. I will be more than happy to address any follow-up issues you may want to discuss.

Best regards