

Evaluation of Proposals

All proposals will undergo an evaluation process consistent with the requirements as outlined by the OERA Area Sub-Committee (ASC).

In the case of a Request for Proposals where there are multiple overlapping research proposals which have been evaluated, the ASC will rank the proposals in order of preference for funding.

Following submission of written evaluations by outside technical experts if required, each review will be assessed by the ASC. The ASC will incorporate the advice of the external reviewers to make recommendations to the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) on the value of the research and likelihood of a successful outcome. At the discretion of the ASC, proponents may be given opportunity to modify their proposals should the ASC see an opportunity for improvement.

If any proposals are deemed to be of such poor quality to not be worthy of recommendation, this shall be brought forward to the next higher level with reasons for the decision. All qualifying proposals will then be assessed by the RAC against budget and other priorities as determined by the Board of Directors. Any change in ranking from that of the ASC shall be documented with rationale in a report to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will make the final decision on which projects receive funding.

Evaluation Criteria

In all cases the most important criterion shall be the degree to which the research work meets the objectives of the OERA in a timely and efficient fashion for current applicability and future benefit. To address this, proponents are expected to provide a clear statement of the issue(s) to be addressed and expected outcomes that would result from the work research. Those outcomes should include increasing scientific knowledge and information that will assist regulators and regulatory policy-makers in making good public-interest decisions with respect to the interaction between the marine environment and energy exploration, development and production offshore Nova Scotia.

When evaluating a proposal, the ASC or outside technical experts shall determine if it is scientifically and/or technically sound, of strategic priority and if it has been developed to the point where anticipated outcomes can reasonably be achieved. The research team's past performance in meeting milestones, as well as demonstrated problem-solving capabilities shall also be weighed. When judging proposals of comparable merit, additional weight shall be given to those proposals which enhance the research capacity within Nova Scotia.

In all cases the ASC will determine what the measurement criteria and weighting of each will be during the evaluation process. This information shall be included in the RFP.