

## Still potential for natural gas, oil in N.S. deep waters - regulator

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HALIFAX - Geophysicists say newly released information from 11 dormant wells in deep waters off Sable Island suggest there's still potential for natural gas and oil to be discovered.

For decades, wells have been drilled in the area seaward of the existing Sable gas projects, but no company has found enough hydrocarbons to begin production.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board released its geological report today, including previously secret data from wells about 50 kilometres off Sable.

If a well isn't exploited after two years, the regulator is permitted to post the information publicly in hopes other exploration firms will become interested.

Steven Bigelow, manager of petroleum resources and rights at the board, says the gas potential for the area is between 12 to 39 trillion cubic feet.

That's roughly enough energy to heat up to 20 million homes for 10 years.