

Not Reasonably Satisfied Decision

Decision – Exmouth SLB15 MC3D MSS Environment Plan

This document provides notification of NOPSEMA’s decision made under regulation 10 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Environment Regulations) that it is not reasonably satisfied that the environment plan meets the acceptance criteria set out in the regulations, and that the titleholder is provided an opportunity to modify and resubmit the plan.

Submission information

Titleholder:	Schlumberger Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Exmouth SLB15 MC3D MSS environment plan [Document SLB-MC-151002-1, Rev, 1]
Petroleum titles:	SPA Application BA8B2A
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	24 December 2015
Activities type(s)¹:	Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the current environment plan submission.</i>	<p>Schlumberger proposes to undertake a MSS named Exmouth SLB15 MC3D MSS, in Commonwealth waters of the Exmouth Sub-Basin, approximately 15 km off the Exmouth coast of Western Australia (WA) in waters from 30-1500m deep. The proposed survey is expected to commence in December 2015 and will be acquired in two separate phases, each taking up to 150 days subject to weather conditions and statutory approvals. As a contingency, the environment plan (EP) for this MSS will be written to accommodate the survey being undertaken at any time of year. The latest date for completion of this activity is 30 November 2016.</p> <p>The equipment and methods used to conduct the survey are standard for seismic surveys and conform to what has been previously used for similar studies in the same marine region. A seismic survey vessel will traverse a series of pre-determined survey lines within the operational area, at a speed of approximately 8-9 km per hour during data acquisition. As the vessel traverses the sail lines, a series of sound pulses are discharged every 8-10 seconds which travel through the water column and down through the seabed to the subsea rock formations. The sound waves are reflected from buried rock layers and measured by a towed array of sensors used to map the subsurface for potential oil and gas reservoirs.</p> <p>The recording array will be made up of up to 1.1 km wide and 8km long, and is positioned below the ocean surface.</p> <p>The operational area does not overlap any protected or significant areas although it is adjacent to the Murion Island and Ningaloo Marine Mammal</p>

¹ Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004

Reserves. Of the expected 150 days duration for the southern phase of acquisition, approximately 12 non-consecutive days are required to complete the acquisition of lines that are within 20 km of the marine reserves boundaries. The activity operational area is 15 km away from the nearest landfall, with Exmouth being the nearest town at a distance of approximately 30 km.

Decision:	Not Reasonably Satisfied
Decision date:	1 February 2016
Resubmission due date²:	2 March 2016
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager

Basis of decision

NOPSEMA has assessed the environment plan in accordance with its assessment policies and procedures. On completion of assessment, NOPSEMA has decided that it is not reasonably satisfied that the environment plan³:

- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- (c) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level
- (d) provides for appropriate environmental performance outcomes, environmental performance standards and measurement criteria
- (g) demonstrates that:
 - (i) the titleholder has carried out the consultations required by Division 2.2A
 - (ii) the measures (if any) that the titleholder has adopted, or proposes to adopt, because of the consultations are appropriate.

Titleholder requirements

In accordance with regulation 10, the titleholder is required to modify and resubmit the environment plan. Upon resubmission of the plan, NOPSEMA will continue to assess the submission in accordance with its assessment policies and make a decision under regulation 10. After a titleholder has been provided with reasonable opportunity to modify and resubmit an environment plan, NOPSEMA will make a final decision on whether to accept or refuse to accept the environment plan.

How to get further information

If you have any further questions regarding the activity it is suggested you contact the titleholder's nominated liaison person for the activity.

If you would like to access any further information regarding the decision, or would like to contact NOPSEMA please email environment@nopsema.gov.au.

² NOPSEMA sets the proposed timeframe for resubmission; after which NOPSEMA may determine a reasonable opportunity has been given and NOPSEMA may refuse to accept the plan. Titleholders can request an extended timeframe.

³ The criteria that follow are set out in Regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations