



Not reasonably satisfied decision

North West Shelf Renaissance North Multi Client Marine Seismic Surveys

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

Titleholder¹:	TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	North West Shelf Renaissance North Multi Client Marine Seismic Surveys Environment Plan
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	3325C9
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	11/01/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the website environment plan.</i>	Activity Description and Location <p>TGS proposes to acquire multi-client (MC) 2D and 3D marine seismic surveys (MSS), within the North West Shelf Renaissance North MC MSS (NWSR North) operational area in waters offshore from Western Australia (WA) and the Northern Territory (NT). The operational area is ~610,000 square kilometres with water depths ranging from approximately >20–5,000 metres (m). The operational area extends from Broome northwards to the waters beyond the Tiwi Islands. Smaller surveys will be undertaken within this larger operational area over a five-year period. Large exclusion zones exist around various sensitive locations such as Scott Reef, Ashmore and Cartier Islands and Browse Island.</p> <p>Surveys will be undertaken with purpose built vessels. At-sea refuelling may occur but will only take place during daylight hours and not within a minimum distance of 25 km from any emergent land or shallow water features. A support vessel will accompany the survey vessel.</p> Operational Details <p>The proposed MSS will be typical 2D and 3D surveys that are similar to previous surveys conducted in Australian marine waters, with no unique or unusual equipment or operations proposed. Two sound source volumes are proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depth of 20–29 m. Maximum 3,060 cui source with peak SPL ~240 dB re 1µPa (at 1 m)

- depth of 30 m and greater. Maximum 4,120 cui source with peak SPL ~242 dB re 1µPa (at 1 m)

During the proposed survey activities, the survey vessels will traverse a series of pre-determined sail lines within the operational area at a speed of ~4.5 knots. For both 2D and 3D surveys, the operating pressure for the seismic acoustic source will be ~2,000 psi, with the 3D acoustic source deployed in two arrays, each with a maximum volume of 4,120 cubic inches and frequencies extending up to ~200 Hz.

Timing of the Activity

The NWSR North MC MSS EP will cover a period of five years, although commencement dates and duration of individual surveys within the operational area have not yet been determined.

Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	09/02/2016
Resubmission due date³:	09/04/2016
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Seismic & Production Operations

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 plan meets the criteria below as set out in regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations:

- (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; and
- (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 this decision, or would like to contact NOPSEMA please email environment@nopsema.gov.au.

¹ A titleholder includes an applicant for a petroleum access authority, petroleum special prospecting authority, pipeline licence, greenhouse gas search authority or greenhouse gas special authority under sub-regulation 9(2)

² Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004

³ 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