

Not reasonably satisfied decision

Gulpener 2D Seismic Survey 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

Titleholder¹:	Origin Energy Resources Limited
Environment plan:	Gulpener 2D Seismic Survey (Document Number NTT-5000-ENV-PLN-00001, Rev C)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	NT/P84
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	15/01/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the website environment plan.</i>	Origin Energy Resources Limited (Origin) is proposing to undertake a two-dimensional (2D) marine seismic survey in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf, in Commonwealth waters, offshore Northern Territory. The proposed survey is named “Gulpener 2D” and could potentially identify new gas reserves in Exploration Permit NT/P84.

The permit location is approximately 165 km (88 nautical miles) south-west of Darwin and 20 km (11 nautical miles) north-north-east of Port Keats (Wadeye) and 10 km (5.4 nautical miles) east of the Blacktip gas field. The exploration or ‘acquisition’ area of the survey is approximately 2,850 sq km and will require an operational buffer area of 10 km around the survey area. The water depth of the operational area varies between 0 metres (at low tide) to 70 metres, including reefs, shoals and banks. Waters become deeper to the north-west with increasing distance from the coastline.

The survey is scheduled to take place over approximately two to three weeks, during the period 1 March 2016 to 31 July 2017. The preferred timing of the survey is between 15 June 2016 and 31 July 2016, which is outside the Northern Prawn Fishery season and during optimal sea conditions. The exact timing will depend on environmental approvals, confirmation of contractor resources, ongoing stakeholder consultation and actual sea conditions in the lead up to the planned survey.



	In addition, a survey to map the sea bed (bathymetric survey) may be run approximately seven days prior to the seismic survey or just prior to seismic survey acquisition.
Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	12/02/2016
Resubmission due date³:	18/3/2016
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.

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.