



Acceptance decision

Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey 2015–2017 Revision 2

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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Polarcus Seismic Limited
Environment plan:	Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey 2015-2017 Revision 2
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	AC-26-SPA; AC-60-AA
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	18/01/2016
Activities type(s)²:	Seismic Survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>Polarcus Seismic Limited (Polarcus) proposes to undertake a three-dimensional marine seismic survey (Cygnus 3D MSS) in Commonwealth waters of the Vulcan Sub-basin (in the Western Bonaparte Basin), approximately 150 km off the Kimberley coast of northern Western Australia (WA) and 110 km from the Indonesian archipelago and East Timor.</p> <p>The Cygnus 3D MSS is anticipated to take a total of approximately 12 months to complete. The survey has the potential to start as early as December 2015. Exact start and end dates and phasing will be communicated by Polarcus (in accordance with the Cygnus 3D MSS EP’s stakeholder consultation process) based on seasonal restrictions due to environmental sensitivities, availability of vessel and weather conditions; although it is currently proposed that the survey be completed no later than December 2017.</p> <p>Seismic data acquisition will be undertaken by one Polarcus-owned and operated seismic vessel. The total volume of the seismic source proposed for the survey is 3,090 cubic inches. This source size was selected as the minimum size to achieve the technical objectives. The seismic source will be towed at approximately 4.5 knots along pre-determined survey lines with 562 m spacing. Three seismic sources will be discharged alternately (‘flip-flop-flap’ source configuration) at 12.5 m intervals (referred to as the shot point interval) along each survey line. A total of 10 solid hydrophone streamers each measuring approximately 8,900 m in length will be towed at a depth of between approximately 15 m below the surface.</p>
Decision:	Accepted



Decision date:	19/05/2016
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. Having regard to all information provided by, and referred to in the environment plan, NOPSEMA is reasonably satisfied that the environment plan meets the criteria set out in regulation 10A of the Environment Regulations.

Next steps for the petroleum activity

An environment plan summary must be provided to NOPSEMA within 10 days of this acceptance. regulation 11(4) requires that this document provide material from the accepted environment plan.

Once the summary document has been prepared to NOPSEMA satisfaction it will be published on NOPSEMA's website. NOPSEMA aims to have all environment plan summary documents published within 20 days of acceptance. This timeframe may vary should the document require amendment by the titleholder.

The titleholder is required to notify NOPSEMA 10 days prior to the commencement of the activity. This notification will be published on NOPSEMA's website.

Titleholder environmental performance requirements

A titleholder is required to undertake a petroleum activity in accordance with the accepted environment plan. It is an offence under the Environment Regulations to act in a manner contrary to the accepted environment plan. A titleholder must submit a revision to the environment plan in response to a new or increased environmental impact or risk, or a significant modification or stage of the activity not provided for in the accepted 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