

Acceptance decision

Capreolus Phase II 3D Multi-client Marine Seismic Survey

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:	Capreolus Phase II 3D Multi-client Marine Seismic Survey, Revision 1, May 2016
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	SPA application number 6A7491
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	24/05/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan</i>	<p>The Capreolus Phase II three-dimensional (3D) Marine Seismic Survey (MSS) is proposed to be undertaken by Polarcus Seismic Limited (Polarcus) in Commonwealth waters of the Offshore Northern Carnarvon Basin and Roebuck Basin, approximately 135 km northwest of Port Hedland, 258 km north-northeast of Exmouth and 410 km west of Broome in Western Australia. The Capreolus Phase II 3D MSS will encompass two distinct survey areas (where seismic data acquisition will be targeted) within a larger Operational Area (which encompasses additional areas where vessel manoeuvring and ancillary activities will occur).</p> <p>The Capreolus Phase II 3D MSS is scheduled to commence no earlier than 1 October 2016 and the end date is 30 June 2018. The exact scheduling and phasing of the survey is subject to seasonal restrictions, environmental sensitivities, availability of vessel and weather conditions.</p> <p>Seismic data acquisition will be undertaken by one to two Polarcus-owned and operated seismic vessels. The total proposed volume of the seismic source for each seismic vessel is 3,480 cubic inches and this will be towed a short distance behind each survey vessel at 5 to 10 m depth and at a speed of approximately 4.5 knots. A total of 12 solid hydrophone streamers each measuring between approximately 8 and 9 km in length will be towed at a depth of between 10 and 20 m below the surface and spaced 100 m apart with tail buoys used to maintain position and clearly indicate the streamer ends. Only one vessel will acquire seismic data in each survey area at any one time, although the two areas may be acquired either consecutively or concurrently (while always maintaining a minimum 40 km separation distance between operating seismic vessels).</p>



Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	26/07/2016
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