

Acceptance decision

Barossa Appraisal Drilling Campaign 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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	ConocoPhillips Australia Exploration Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Barossa Appraisal Drilling Campaign Environment Plan, Rev 2, Doc. No. ALL/HSE/PLN/028
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	NT/RL5
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	10/08/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>ConocoPhillips Australia Exploration Pty Ltd, as titleholder, proposes to drill, evaluate, test and abandon hydrocarbon appraisal wells in petroleum retention lease area NT/RL5, to further define the hydrocarbon resources within the Barossa gas field. A total of up to three appraisal wells may be drilled. NT/RL5 is located in the Bonaparte Basin, solely in Commonwealth waters, approximately 300 kilometres (km) offshore of Darwin, Northern Territory (NT), and covers an area of approximately 847 sq. kms. The size of the actual activity footprint associated with drilling the wells will be significantly smaller, i.e. < 1% of the total size of the NT/RL5 permit. Water depths at the proposed wells range between approximately 120 m - 350 m.</p> <p>The key activities of the drilling campaign are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling of the upper well sections • Installation of blowout preventer (BOP) and marine riser • Drilling of the lower well sections • Well testing and evaluation (may comprise vertical seismic profiling) • Well abandonment <p>An operational area will be in place around the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) during drilling activities. The operational area is defined based on a circle with a 1,500 m radius around the MODU when located at the well centre. The operational area encompasses both the 500 m petroleum safety zone (PSZ) around the MODU and accommodates the installation of the anchor moorings and support vessel movements in the immediate vicinity of the MODU.</p> <p>The drilling campaign could commence as early as 1 December 2016. It is</p>

anticipated that the drilling campaign would be completed within approximately 18 months, noting that the exact timing for completion is subject to weather conditions and operational efficiencies.

Drilling will be conducted by either a moored or dynamically positioned (DP) semi-submersible MODU, supported by at least three support vessels consisting of a combination of anchor-handling support vessels (moored MODU only) and platform support vessels.

Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	14/11/2016
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Drilling & Developments

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