

Acceptance decision

Ichthys Project Offshore Facility (Operations)

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:	INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Ichthys Project Offshore Facility Operation Environment Plan (Document No. X075-AH-PLN-00015, Revision 2, dated 10/10/2016)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	WA-50-L
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	09/02/2016
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of a facility used for the recovery and processing of petroleum
Activity overview:	<p>Location</p> <p>Wholly located within Commonwealth waters, approximately 390 km north of Derby, Western Australia in the North-west Marine Region (NWMR) of the Timor Sea.</p> <p>Hydrocarbon Type</p> <p>Gas and condensate</p> <p>Interlinked facility</p> <p>Central processing facility [CPF] (<i>Ichthys Explorer</i>) which is used to separate the reservoir fluid received from the gathering systems into liquid and gaseous phases, and export gas onshore for further processing. The CPF also has accommodation facilities and utilities, with a capacity of 200 beds, to support a workforce.</p> <p>Floating production, storage and offtake (facility) [FPSO] (<i>Ichthys Venturer</i>) which supports hydrocarbon processing systems and utilities by processing liquid hydrocarbons received from the CPF to produce a stabilised hydrocarbon condensate, which is then temporarily stored within the FPSO hull and, periodically, offloaded to tankers for export to market. The FPSO also has accommodation facilities utilities, with a capacity of 200 beds, to support a workforce.</p> <p>Subsea production system [SPS] infrastructure (e.g. xmas trees, manifolds, subsea control systems and umbilicals, risers and flowlines (URF), and the gas export riser base (GERB), which connect the wells to the CPF and FPSO).</p>



Vessels

Platform supply vessels, accommodation support vessels, tugs, heavy-lift vessels (HLVs) – potentially also operating as a facility, offtake support vessels, and other supply and support vessels required to support the operation and maintenance of the CPF, FPSO and subsea infrastructure, within the operational area

Activities

Hook-up to subsea infrastructure

Tugs will position the CPF and FPSO (so that they can be moored and hooked up to pre-installed subsea infrastructure in accordance with the URF Installation Environment Plan (E075-AH-PLN-10000)).

Connecting the accommodation support vessels (ASVs) to the CPF and FPSO.

Commissioning

Preparing the CPF, FPSO and subsea infrastructure for the introduction of reservoir hydrocarbons. Commissioning is a series of tests and checks to ensure the integrity of the production and utility systems on the CPF and FPSO can operate as per their design and functional intent. The only emissions and discharges from the facility during this period are from the utility systems (i.e. cooling and potable water systems, power generation, lighting and inert gas systems).

There are no production discharges or flaring from the production system until after start-up. Some non- production critical equipment may be commissioned after Start-up.

Start-up and operations

Starting-up the SPS, CPF, and FPSO to allow the reservoir fluids and processing equipment to reach operational pressures and temperatures, as well as obtaining sufficient and stable equipment inlet flow to enable the equipment to perform to design criteria.

Conveyance of fluids, comprising gas, hydrocarbon condensate, MEG and produced water (PW) from the reservoirs by means of the subsea infrastructure to the CPF and FPSO.

Regeneration of MEG by the FPSO used during processing so that it can be recycled back to the SPS and wells.

Processing and storage of gas and condensate via the CPF and FPSO, including transfer of condensate via an offtake hose to an offloading tanker; and gas export up to the gas export pipeline [GEP].

Inspection, maintenance and repair activities on the CPF, FPSO and subsea infrastructure (excluding well intervention or well workover activities).

Expected activity commencement

Late December 2016

Duration

The Ichthys Project has a design life of 40 years. This EP will cover continuous operations, 24 hours per day, for a period of up to five years from acceptance of this EP.

Decision:	Accepted
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Decision date:	08/12/2016
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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