

Wellhead Removal 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). In this instance, NOPSEMA is providing an opportunity to modify and resubmit the environment plan as it is not reasonably satisfied that the plans meets the acceptance criteria set out in the regulations.

Submission information

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| Titleholder¹: | Shell Australia Pty Ltd |
| Environment plan: | Wellhead Removal Environment Plan |
| Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s): | WA-371-P; WA-44-L; AC/RL9; WA-85-AA |
| Date submitted to NOPSEMA: | 26/11/2016 |
| Activities type(s)²: | Decommissioning, dismantling or removing a facility |
| Activity overview: | Shell Australia proposes to remove seven wellheads located in Commonwealth waters of the Browse Basin; 200km offshore northwest Australia. The seven wellheads will be removed by a light well intervention vessel. The wells have not produced hydrocarbons and have been safely abandoned in accordance with regulatory requirements. Removal of the wellheads will remove the visual and structural evidence of the wells from the seabed, and eliminate presence or future hazards to the environment or other users of the area. The wellhead removal activity is scheduled to commence in Q1-Q3 2017, and is planned to take ~3 weeks to complete. |
| Decision: | Not reasonably satisfied |
| Decision date: | 20/12/2016 |
| Resubmission due date³: | 10/01/2017 |
| 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. 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:

- (a) is appropriate for the nature and scale of the activity; and
- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable; and
- (c) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level; and
- (e) includes an appropriate implementation strategy and monitoring, recording and reporting arrangements.

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.