



GREATER EXMOUTH MULTI-CLIENT MARINE SEISMIC SURVEYS 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

Titleholder¹:	Spectrum Geo Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Greater Exmouth Multi-Client Marine Seismic Surveys Environment Plan
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	SPA application - A37639
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	16/02/2017
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic Survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>Activity Description and Location</p> <p>In the offshore areas of Western Australia (WA), the geophysical company Spectrum Geo (Spectrum) proposes to acquire marine seismic surveys (MSS) within the Greater Exmouth operational area. The Greater Exmouth operational area comprises approximately 456,000 square kilometres (km). At the closest point, the operational area boundary is approximately 6 km from the boundary of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area and approximately 24 km from the mainland coastline at North West Cape. East of the operational area are the Montebello Islands (approximately 22 km away), Barrow Island (>40 km away) and Exmouth Gulf (approximately 67 km away). The southeast corner of the operational area is approximately 6 km to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area boundary, >70 km away from the entrance to Shark Bay and >20 km away from the Houtman Abrolhos Islands. The Greater Exmouth operational area excludes WA State waters. Water depths across the survey area range from 50–5,500 m, and seismic activities will not occur in water shallower than 50 m.</p> <p>Operational Details</p> <p>In terms of technical methods and procedures, the proposed MSS will be similar to others conducted in Australian marine waters. No unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed. The proposed MSS will be undertaken using a purpose-built, seismic survey vessel. During the proposed activities, the survey vessel will traverse a series of pre-determined sail lines within the operational area at a speed of approximately 8–9 km/hour. The operating pressure for the acoustic source will be approximately 2,000 psi with a maximum volume of 4,350 cubic inches.</p>

Timing of the Activity

The Greater Exmouth EP is designed for a duration of five years. The timing of commencement and duration of individual surveys have not yet been determined, but the first survey (once the EP is accepted) will not occur before Q4 2016. Furthermore, the commencement of each survey will be dependent on fair sea state conditions suitable for marine seismic acquisition, vessel(s) availability, client data schedule requirements and granting of approvals from the appropriate government bodies.

Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	20/03/2017
Resubmission due date3:	19/04/2017
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. 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
- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- (c) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level
- (d) provides for appropriate environmental performance outcomes, environmental performance standards and measurement criteria
- (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.