



Rollo Multiclient Marine Seismic and CSEM Surveys

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:	PGS Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Rollo Multiclient Marine Seismic and SCEM Surveys (Chapter 1, Rev 3, Chapter 2, Rev 4 and Chapter 3, Rev 3)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	B24B67
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	28/02/2017
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seismic surveys • Other survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>The geophysical company PGS Australia Pty Ltd (PGS) proposes to acquire multi-client three-dimensional, multi-client two-dimensional marine seismic surveys (MSS) and controlled source electromagnetic surveys within the Rollo Operation Area (OA) in the North-west Marine Region offshore from Western Australia (WA). The Rollo OA is based on a bioregional approach and is comprised of an area approximately 830,000 square kilometres (km²). The Rollo OA lies entirely in Commonwealth waters within the NWMR with the deepest water depths situated in the offshore regions of the OA. The OA extends from Shark Bay northwards along the WA coast to the inshore waters of the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf (JBG). Within the Rollo MC OA there are a number of areas of environmental significance or shallow water depth that were excluded from the acquisition areas within the OA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mermaid Reef (and Rowley Shoals) • Ashmore Reef and waters surrounding Cartier Island • Scott Reef (north and south) and Seringapatam Reef • Browse Island. <p>In addition, there are spatial buffers proposed around oceanic shoals within which seismic acquisition is not to take place.</p> <p>The OA is located approx. 26 km from Dirk Hartog Island, approx. 6 km from the Montebello Islands, approx. 80 km from Cape Bossut at Eighty Mile Beach, >65 km from Cape Leveque, approx. 10 km from Adele Island and adjacent to WA state waters in the JBG. Water depths in the proposed OA range from approx. 10 m to 5,700 m. There will be no acquisition in water depths less than 39m</p>



throughout the operational area.

In terms of technical methods and procedures, the proposed MSS are similar to most others conducted in Australian marine waters. Other than the possible use of towed electromagnetic equipment, no unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed. The survey will be conducted using a purpose-built seismic vessel. The 3D seismic receiver array is intended to comprise approx. 10-16 streamers, with a length of approx. 8 km each. The streamers are towed side-by-side with a spacing of approx. 50-150 m between. For 2D, the streamer may be up to 12 km long. Streamer depth will be approx. 8-26 m. The operating pressure for the acoustic source array will be approx. 2,000 psi. No vessels or seismic equipment shall enter Commonwealth Marine Reserves with an IUCN rating of II or IV or at any time. The Rollo EP is designed to cover a period of five years from date of acceptance of the EP by NOPSEMA. The timing of commencement and duration of individual surveys to be acquired within the Rollo OA have not yet been determined. The commencement of each survey will be subject to pre-survey planning and will take into account sea state conditions suitable for marine seismic and CSEM acquisition, the availability of a survey vessel(s) for conducting the survey, client data schedule requirements and granting of approvals from the appropriate government bodies, along with any consideration of any specific stakeholder consultation commitments and temporal restrictions contained within this EP.

Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	29/03/2017
Resubmission due date³:	28/05/2017
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
- (g) demonstrates that:
 - (i) the titleholder has carried out the consultations required by Division 2.2A
 - (ii) the measures (if any) that the titleholder has adopted, or proposes to adopt, because of the consultations are appropriate

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.