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| Decision notification |
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# Cygnus Southwest Marine Seismic Survey

This document provides notificationof 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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| Titleholder[[1]](#endnote-1): | Spectrum Geo Pty Ltd |
| Environment plan: | Cygnus Southwest Marine Seismic Survey EP |
| Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s): | CD64FO |
| Date submitted to NOPSEMA: | 14/03/2016 |
| **Activities type(s)[[2]](#endnote-2):** | * Seismic Survey |
| **Activity overview:**  *As described on the NOPSEMA website.* | Spectrum proposes to conduct a 2D and 3D seismic survey in the Browse Basin. No unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed. The survey will be conducted using a purpose-built seismic survey vessel. The maximum survey area extent is approximately 6,331km2 over the 3D survey area, and includes a total of 191 km over the nine identified 2D sail lines and is located entirely within Commonwealth waters. The survey vessel will not enter State waters or Commonwealth Marine Reserves at any point during the activity. Water depths in the survey area are in the range of 3 to 430 m with the shallowest water depths located around Heywood shoal, however the survey vessel will not fire the seismic source in water depths of less than 30 m.  The survey area indicates the area within which 3D seismic will occur. In addition, the 2D lines shown will be acquired. The seismic source will be discharged at full power within the survey area and along the 2D lines only. The operational area is used for conducting operations ancillary to achieving full-fold coverage within the survey area. Activities conducted in the Operational Area include: acoustic emissions below full power for the purpose of ‘soft start’ or ‘fauna alert’ procedures; miscellaneous maintenance operations; and, vessel turns at the end of each sail line, necessary for the vessel to change to a new sail line.  To allow for contingency in event of prolonged shut down periods, weather or equipment/vessel issues, a conservative time of 90 days (3 months) is assessed for in this EP. If surveys are conducted separately, there may be a period of time between the activities being undertaken, the total duration of the separate surveys will however take 3 months. If this does occur, this will trigger new commencement notifications to stakeholders. |
| Decision: | Not reasonably satisfied |
| Decision date: | 03/04/2017 |
| Resubmission due date[[3]](#endnote-3): | 24/04/2017 |
| 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:

(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](file:///C:\Users\vaneco\Caches\Objects\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). [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
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. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)