

Acceptance decision

Vesta 1 and 2 Well Head Abandonment 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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Eni Australia Ltd
Environment plan:	Vesta 1 and 2 Well Head Abandonment Environment Plan, revision 00, ACP21_HSE_R_WE.0004
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	AC/P21
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	05/04/2017
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other petroleum-related operations or works carried out under an instrument, authority or consent granted or issued under the OPGGSA
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>Vesta-1 and Vesta-2 wells (Vesta-1 & 2) were drilled by Eni Australia Limited (Eni) as part of exploration activity in Permit Area AC/P 21 in 2005 and 2007 respectively. The AC/P 21 Permit Area is in Commonwealth waters off the north western Australian coast, about 151 km to the east of Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island and approximately 687 km west-northwest of Darwin. Following drilling and associated testing, the two wells were plugged and abandoned with the well heads left in place. The two Vesta wells are located in slightly over 100 metres (m) of water depth, with the well heads originally extending approximately 3-4m above the surrounding seabed. The wells have remained undisturbed since the original drilling campaigns and it is anticipated the well heads will now be covered by marine growth.</p> <p>The abandonment measures that were put in place for the wells have been reviewed and assessed by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) as meeting the requirements for permanent abandonment, consistent with regulation 5.17(c) of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011. An End of Well Abandonment Report (EOWAR) and Well Operations Management Plan (WOMP) describing the abandonment of the wells were submitted to NOPSEMA, and on 28 September 2016 NOPSEMA advised Eni they were reasonably satisfied that the process of abandoning the wells had been undertaken in accordance with the WOMP.</p>



The Activity involves permanent (in perpetuity) abandonment of the Vesta-1 & 2 wells. As the ongoing integrity of the wells has been assured by the previous WOMP activities, no further operations are proposed in relation to the Vesta-1 & 2 wells, including well heads, which will be abandoned in situ.

Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	30/05/2017
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. 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