

Acceptance decision

Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey (Phase 3) 2017-2018

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:	Polarcus Seismic Limited
Environment plan:	Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey (Phase 3) 2017-2018 (Revision 2, 21 November 2017, Document No. 0402889)
Application number:	Title Application – AA – 7D18A8 SPA – 20277D
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	06/10/2016
Activities type²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seismic Survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>The Cygnus 3D Marine Seismic Survey (MSS) is a three-dimensional marine seismic survey in Commonwealth waters of the Vulcan Sub-basin. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Cygnus 3D MSS were previously completed between December 2015 and March 2016 in accordance with environmental management measures detailed in a previously accepted Environment Plan (NOPSEMA reference 3446), which is valid until the 31st December 2017. This revision of Environment Plan is submitted to NOPSEMA to allow for an extension to the timeframe of the Cygnus 3D MSS EP to the 31st December 2018. The original Cygnus 3D MSS EP Survey Area has also been refined to include a smaller Operational Area and Acquisition Area for Phase 3 of the Cygnus 3D MSS.</p> <p>The Acquisition Area comprises the area within which 3D seismic acquisition will be undertaken and covers approximately 7,240 km². The Acquisition Area is surrounded by a larger Operational Area, which comprises additional area for the purpose of line turns, run-ins, run-outs, soft starts, source testing, etc. The Operational Area is located approximately 170 km off the Kimberley coast of northern Western Australia (WA) and 180 km from the Indonesian archipelago and East Timor. The survey will be undertaken in Commonwealth waters in water depths of up to approximately 245 m.</p> <p>Phase 3 of the Cygnus 3D MSS is expected to comprise the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3 North; • Phase 3 South; and • Potential additional orthogonal infill lines within the Phase 1 area. <p>The next phases of the Cygnus 3D MSS are anticipated to take a total of approx 2-3 months to acquire, completed between 2017 and 31 December 2018.</p>



Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	01/12/2017
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. 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