

Acceptance decision

Sole-3 & 4 Drilling and Sole-2 Well Abandonment

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:	Cooper Energy (Sole) Pty. Ltd.
Environment plan:	Sole-3 & 4 Drilling and Sole-2 Well Abandonment Environment Plan, Rev 0, Document number SOL-DC-EMP-0001
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	VIC/L32
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	14/11/2017
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>Cooper Energy (Sole) Pty Ltd (Cooper) is the Titleholder for Production Licence VIC/L32 (Sole) which is approximately 65 km from Orbost Gas Plant off Victoria's coast in Bass Strait. Appraisal drilling has previously been undertaken within this lease, and Cooper Energy is now proposing development drilling of two wells – Sole-3 and Sole-4, as well as well abandonment at Sole-2, as part of on-going field development operations within the Sole field.</p> <p>Activities included in the scope of the Environment Plan (EP) include pre-mooring activities, drilling, well abandonment, well suspension, support vessels, ROV activities and use of helicopters. All activities will be occurring in water depths approximately 125 m. The MODU Ocean Monarch has been engaged for this work scope. Cooper Energy will apply for a 500 m exclusion zone for drilling of the Sole-3 and Sole-4 wells, which will remain in place once wells are suspended.</p> <p>The MODU will be moored to allow drilling and completion of Sole-3 and Sole-4 without re-positioning anchors (i.e. the MODU will kedge – adjust the anchor chain lengths - between the well locations), noting Sole-3 and Sole-4 are only a short distance (44 m) away from each other. The mooring design may also allow kedging of the MODU to Sole-2, however repositioning anchors may be required; this will be determined when the mooring program is finalised.</p> <p>Activities are anticipated to commence the first half of 2018. Drilling and abandonment activities, including contingency pre-lay of moorings and preparation for Blowout Preventer (BOP) if required, are expected to take approximately 70 days, excluding weather and operational delays. During this period, any of the activities described in the EP may be undertaken, with</p>

normal operations conducted 24-hours a day.

Following completion, Sole-3 and 4 will be suspended until the Sole development is ready to receive flow from the reservoir. During this period, any of the activities described in the EP may be undertaken, with normal operations conducted 24-hours a day.

The MODU will be towed to location where it will be moored prior to commencing activities. Anchors may be placed on the seabed and tested by the support vessels prior to the MODU arriving. Eight anchors will be required, with each having a footprint of approximately 30 m². Each anchor is connected to large chain (83 mm) which runs along the seabed towards the MODU for approximately 1100 m before rising towards the MODU.

The MODU will be supported by two or three anchor handling, tow and support (AHTS) vessels. One vessel will remain on standby and in attendance to the MODU throughout the workover program.

Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	16/01/2018
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