

Acceptance decision

WA-474-P, WA-70-R Suspended Wells 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:	Western Gas Corporation Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	WA-474-P, WA-70-R Suspended Wells environment plan (EP) (Document No. EQ1-ENV-PLN—1005, Revision 4, dated January 2018)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	WA-70-R, WA-474-P
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	13/07/2017
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 OPGGS Act
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>Western Gas propose to retain five (5) exploration wells in suspension and to conduct well head inspection activities (hereafter referred to as 'the Activity') on the one (1) suspended gas / gas condensate well within Permit Area WA-474-P and four (4) suspended wells within adjacent Permit Area WA-70-R, located in the Northern Carnarvon Basin in Commonwealth waters. The Permit Areas are located approximately 145 km (78 nm) north of the North West Cape (Exmouth area) and about 275 km (148 nm) west of Dampier.</p> <p>The wells were suspended as part of previous exploration drilling programs in the Permit Areas. All well suspension activities, including surveillance requirements, are being undertaken in accordance with a National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) accepted Well Operations Management Plan (WOMP) (EP-AU-SUF-RPT-01045 Rev 1). The surveillance involves one non-intrusive visual inspection of the well heads, accomplished via remotely operated vehicle (ROV) videography acquired during a single survey of all five suspended wells within the lifetime of the WOMP.</p>
Decision:	Accepted
Decision date:	29/01/2016
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