

Otway Deep Marine Seismic Survey 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). 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

Titleholder¹:	Spectrum Geo Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Otway Deep Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan (Revision 0, Document No EEN17175.001, May 2018)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	NEATS application reference number: AA7D6A
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	08/05/2018
Activities type(s)²:	Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>Geophysical company Spectrum Geo (Spectrum) are proposing to undertake the Otway Deep three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey (MSS) in the Commonwealth waters of the Otway Basin. The Otway Deep MSS is adjacent to permit areas T30/P and T49/P and predominantly sits over open acreage. The Otway Deep survey area is located entirely within offshore Commonwealth waters, approximately 42 km south of the Victorian mainland and 62 km west of King Island (Tasmania) at its closest points. Water depths within the survey area range from a minimum of 170 m to a maximum of 3,600 m. The survey area encompasses an area of 23,620 km² and is the area within which the seismic source (airguns) will be operational and seismic data will be acquired, including soft-start procedures and line run-outs (required to obtain full fold coverage). The seismic source will not be operational outside of the survey area. An operational area or 'buffer' around the survey area is required for activities including streamer deployment and retrieval, maintenance and recovery, and vessel manoeuvring (line turns). There will be no discharge of the airguns within the operational area.</p> <p>The activity described in the environment plan also may include the deployment of ocean bottom nodes (no more than 20 units) within the OBN placement area. This is for the purpose receiving and recording seismic data.</p> <p>The duration of the activity is a maximum of 120 days per survey season between 1 October 2018 to end February 2020. The activity will acquire seismic data over a maximum area of 9,200 km² per survey season, within the total defined survey area of 23,620 km². The survey season is defined as the window from the beginning of October to end of February, with avoidance of the period</p>

	from 1 March to end of September. A maximum extent of 9,200 km ² will be acquired during each survey window for the activity (i.e. between October and February in 2019 and again between October and February in 2020). The 120-day survey duration estimate is conservative and allows for some downtime due to weather, avoiding conflicts with other users, marine megafauna, and maintenance.
Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	07/06/2018
Resubmission due date³:	6/8/2018
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:

(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.

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

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.