

Acceptance decision

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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	Spectrum Geo Australia Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Otway Deep Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan (Document No. EEN17175.004, Revision 4)
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	SPA AA7D6A
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	08/05/2018
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</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 survey will be acquired over a maximum of two survey seasons (120 days per season) between beginning October 2019 to end February 2022. The activity will acquire seismic data over a maximum area of 9,200 km² per survey season. The timing of each survey season is subject to availability of the survey vessel for conducting the survey, client data requirements, sea state conditions suitable for marine seismic acquisition, and granting of the required regulatory approvals and access authorities. For this reason, Spectrum will select the survey seasons from one of the following combinations:</p>

- Seasons 1 + 2 (1 Oct 2019 to end Feb 2020 and 1 Oct 2020 to end Feb 2021);
OR

- Seasons 1 + 3 (1 Oct 2019 to end Feb 2020 and 1 Oct 2021 to end Feb 2022);
OR

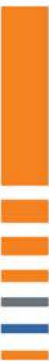
- Seasons 2 + 3 (1 Oct 2020 to end Feb 2021 and 1 Oct 2021 to end Feb 2022).

Spectrum may deploy OBN units on the seabed as an optional component of the Otway Deep MSS to augment the seismic data recorded by streamers. The exact number of these OBN units has not yet been determined but will be no more than 20. The maximum dimensions of each OBN is 1.3 m length, 0.72 m width and 0.75 m height. There will be no seismic operations within the OBN maximum deployment area that lies outside of the survey area. The OBN units will be located on the seabed for at least 30 days and for up to 120 days if weather conditions at the time preclude recovery of the units in a safe manner. Two concrete ballasts, each measuring 0.15 m in diameter and 0.63 m long, will be left on the seabed (per OBN); these will typically degrade within 10 years. The ballasts are composed using only natural components that disintegrate into sand and gravel.

Decision: Accepted

Decision date: 13/06/2019

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