

## Acceptance decision

### Nightcap Multi-Client Marine Seismic Surveys 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

<b>Titleholder<sup>1</sup>:</b>	Pathfinder Energy Pty Ltd
<b>Environment plan:</b>	Nightcap Multi-Client Marine Seismic Surveys Environment Plan (October 2016, Revision 2)
<b>Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):</b>	WA-479-P, WA-487-P, WA-508-P and WA-509-P.
<b>Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:</b>	05/07/2016
<b>Activities type(s)<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seismic Survey</li> </ul>
<b>Activity overview:</b> <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</i>	<p>In the North-west Marine Region offshore from Western Australia (WA), the geophysical company Pathfinder Energy Pty Ltd (Pathfinder) proposes to acquire three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic surveys (MSS) within the Nightcap operational area. The Nightcap MSS operational area comprises ~30,940 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>), and 3D seismic acquisition is proposed in Exploration Permits WA-397-P, WA-447-P, WA-449-P, WA-466-P, WA-479-P, WA-487-P, WA-508-P, WA-509-P and adjacent open acreage areas including W16-4, W16-5, W16-6, W16-7 and W16-8.</p> <p>At the closest point, the operational area is located ~210 km west of Broome on the mainland coast. The southeast corner is located &gt;190 km northwest of Eighty Mile Beach and &gt;70 km south of Scott Reef. The survey area is in close proximity to the Mermaid Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve (CMR) boundary (~4 km away). Located in WA State waters, the Rowley Shoals Marine Park is ~4 km to the west of the operational area. Water depths across the survey area range from ~80–1,300 m, with the deepest water depths situated in the northern half of the survey area. However, seismic activities will not occur in water shallower than 100 m.</p> <p>In terms of technical methods and procedures, the proposed MSS is a typical 3D survey similar to most others conducted in Australian marine waters. No unique or unusual equipment or operations are proposed.</p>
<b>Decision:</b>	Accepted



<b>Decision date:</b>	16/11/2016
<b>Decision made by:</b>	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](mailto:environment@nopsema.gov.au).

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> Activity type as listed in the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Regulatory Levies) Regulations 2004