



Gippsland Marine Seismic Survey

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:	CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	CGG Gippsland Marine Seismic Survey, No EEN17140.002 6 September 2018
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	Title applicant – CLH6QH
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	07/09/2018
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic Survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd (CGG) proposes to acquire a multi-client 3D marine seismic survey (MSS) in the Gippsland Basin offshore Victoria. The Gippsland MSS is located approximately 12 km east of Golden Beach on the Gippsland coast, at its closest point to the mainland. The Gippsland MSS comprises acquisition of seismic data in an Acquisition Area of approximately 13,037 km² within a larger Operational Area of approximately 16,850 km². The water depths within the acquisition area range from a minimum of approximately 34 m along Ninety Mile Beach to 2,676 m in the Bass Canyon. The operational area is for sail line run-ins and run-outs (required to obtain full coverage), soft starts, streamer deployment / retrieval and maintenance, and line turns.</p> <p>The Gippsland MSS comprises seven zones, each taking a maximum of one month to complete. Each zone is numbered and the order of acquisition will be based on minimising impacts to sensitive receptors such as migrating whales and spawning fish. The orientation of each zone is aligned with survey sail lines with six zones aligned ESE and WNW directions and one (the shallowest) aligned NE and SW direction.</p> <p>The seismic survey vessel will traverse a series of pre-determined sail lines within the acquisition area at a speed of approximately 4.5 to 5 knots. The source array will have maximum volume of 3,000 cubic inches which will be reduced to <150 cubic inches over South East Reef due to its importance for commercially important fish and invertebrate species as identified from stakeholder consultation. The sub-arrays will be fired alternately, with a shot point interval of 12.5 m. The seismic vessel will tow 8 to 12 solid streamers, with a maximum length of 7,050 m. Streamer spacing will be 50 to 100 m and</p>

sail lines will be spaced 450 to 1,000 m apart. The source array will be towed at 5 to 9 m below the sea surface, and streamer tow depth will be 6 to 18 m. Undershooting is intended to be undertaken over a 25 km by 3 km area around each of ten platforms within the Acquisition Area. During undershooting, a secondary vessel with a similar seismic source will be positioned parallel to the main survey vessel. Each source will fire every 50 m, alternating between the two source vessels, so there is still 12.5 m between shot points, i.e. the vessels will not be firing simultaneously. Hence the amount of sound being produced is the same as for conventional data acquisition. Each undershoot will take between 18 and 54 hours. The commencement date of the Gippsland MSS is yet to be decided. The duration of the activity is a maximum of 6.5 months and will be conducted between mid-November 2018 and end of June 2020, with avoidance of the period from beginning of July to end of October. The 6.5 month duration is a conservative estimate and allows for some downtime due to weather, avoiding conflicts with other users and marine megafauna, and maintenance.

Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	08/10/2018
Resubmission due date3:	07/11/2018
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:

- (a) is appropriate for the nature and scale of the activity
- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- (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.