

Acceptance decision

CGG 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) to accept an environment plan.

Submission information

Titleholder¹:	CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	CGG Gippsland Marine Seismic Survey EP, Rev 2
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	Application CLH6QH
Date first submitted to NOPSEMA:	07/09/2015
Activities type(s)²:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seismic Survey
Activity overview: <i>As described in the accepted environment plan.</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 in Commonwealth waters approximately 13 km east of Victorian mainland at its closest point, extending out to deep offshore waters approximately 125 km offshore. The Gippsland MSS comprises acquisition of seismic data in an Acquisition Area of a maximum area of 11,161 km², within a larger Operational Area of approximately 13,421 km². The water depths within the acquisition area range from a minimum of approximately 43 m offshore from Ninety Mile Beach to 3,345 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 5 zones, each taking a maximum of one month to complete. Each zone is numbered and the order of acquisition will be determined based on advice from the CGG Gippsland MSS Scientific Advisory Committee, with the order arranged so as to minimise impacts to fishing operations, sensitive receptors such as migrating whales and spawning fish. The orientation of the survey sail lines in each zone are aligned ESE and WNW directions.</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</p>

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 sail lines will be spaced 450 to 1,000 m apart. The source array will be towed at approximately 6 m below the sea surface, and streamer tow depth will be 6 to 18 m.

Undershooting may be undertaken over a 25 km by 3 km area around a number of platforms within the survey area (up to ten platforms depending on client requirements). 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 early March 2019 and end of July 2020, with avoidance of the period from beginning of August to the end of December. 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:	Accepted
Decision date:	25/02/2019
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.

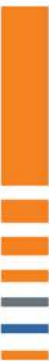
Next steps for the petroleum activity

An *environment plan summary* must be provided to NOPSEMA for publication. Regulation 11(4) requires that this document provide some material from the accepted environment plan. In this case, CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd have agreed to publish the actual environment plan, omitting only personal information and the full text of consultation records, as the environment plan summary.

Due to public interest in the activity, NOPSEMA has also published a report that describes consideration of key matters in its assessment of the environment plan.

The environment plan and NOPSEMA's Key Stakeholder Matters report should be read for further information. Refer to <https://www.nopsema.gov.au/environmental-management/activity-status-and-summaries/details/446>.

CGG Services (Australia) Pty Ltd 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