



Hockey and Bianchi 3D 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:	Quadrant Northwest Pty Ltd
Environment plan:	Hockey and Bianchi 3D Seismic Survey Environment Plan (Revision 1, EA-00-RI-10148).01
Petroleum title(s)/Application number(s):	WA-59-R, WA-290-P, WA-49-R, WA-13-L, WA-510-P, WA-33-R, WA-43-R, WA-50-R, WA-29-L, WA-55-R, WA-214-P
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	19/09/2016
Activities type(s)²:	Seismic survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>Quadrant Northwest Pty Ltd (Quadrant) proposes to undertake the Hockey and Bianchi 3D Marine Seismic Survey (MSS) in Commonwealth waters on the North West Shelf (NWS) of Western Australia (WA). The MSSs will take approximately 60 days and could take place at any time of year between October 2016 and December 2018. The validity of the EP will remain until 31st December 2018.</p> <p>This EP covers marine seismic surveys (MSS) and associated activities and related environmental risks occurring within the operational area. Associated activities includes, as appropriate, refuelling and resupply, use of support vessel and crew changes. The scope does not include those periods when the seismic and support vessels are not engaged in any MSS or associated activities, such as during cyclone avoidance, vessel mobilisation and demobilisation to and from the survey area, maintenance outside of the survey area and port calls.</p> <p>The MSSs will consist of a ‘survey area’ and a larger ‘operational area’. The survey area is located entirely within Commonwealth waters and is defined by that area which contains full-fold seismic coverage for the purpose of imaging the subsurface. The survey vessel will not enter state waters at any point during the activity. The operational area is used for conducting operations ancillary to achieving full-fold coverage within the survey area. Activities conducted in the operational area may include: acoustic emissions at full power on sail line ‘run-outs’; acoustic emissions below full power for the purpose of ‘soft start’ or ‘fauna alert’ procedures; miscellaneous maintenance operations; and, vessel turns at the end of each sail line, necessary for the vessel to change to a new sailline. The MSSs will acquire data in two operational areas; Hockey and Bianchi. For the purpose of this EP, the operational area will contain both Hockey and Bianchi operational areas.</p>

At its nearest point, the operational area is located 5.5 km, 13 km and 11.5 km east of Barrow Island, the Lowendal Islands and Montebello Island respectively. Airlie and Thevenard islands are located 26 km and 33km south of the operational area respectively. The nearest point on the mainland is Onslow found 54 km south of the operational area. Water depths in the operational area range from 20 m to 830 m, however the vessel will not enter waters depths less than 30 m.

Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	19/10/2016
Resubmission due date³:	18/11/2016
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:

- (b) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
- (c) demonstrates that the environmental impacts and risks of the activity will be of an acceptable level
- (d) provides for appropriate environmental performance outcomes, environmental performance standards and measurement criteria

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.