



Zénaïde 3D Marine Seismic Survey 2017 - 2018

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:	Polarcus Seismic Limited
Environment plan:	Zénaïde 3D Marine Seismic Survey 2017 - 2018
Application number(s):	SPA/AA application pending
Date submitted to NOPSEMA:	13/09/2017
Activities type(s)²:	Marine Seismic Survey
Activity overview: <i>As described on the NOPSEMA website.</i>	<p>The Zénaïde 3D MSS is a three-dimensional multi-client marine seismic survey proposed by Polarcus Seismic Limited (Polarcus) to be undertaken in Commonwealth waters located approximately 50 km off the Kimberley coast of northern Western Australia (WA). The Acquisition Area covers an area of approximately 3,300 km² within the western Joseph Bonaparte Gulf of the Bonaparte Basin (title block WA-522-P) and is 60 km from the mainland coast in water depths of approximately 59 m - 97 m.</p> <p>The planned seismic source has a total capacity of 3,090 cubic inches (cui) and will be towed at approximately 4.5 knots a short distance behind the seismic vessel at depths of 5 - 10 m. Ten solid hydrophone streamers, each measuring approximately 8,100 m in length and spaced 150 m apart, will be towed at a depth of approximately 15 m below the surface. The seismic source will be discharged every 12.5 m (approximately 5 seconds) along a series of parallel east-west lines spaced approximately 750 m apart. The surrounding Operational Area incorporates the necessary space for vessel manoeuvring such as line run-ins, run-outs, line-turns source testing, soft starts and turns, refuelling and resupply, use of support and supply vessels as required, and crew changes.</p> <p>The Zénaïde 3D MSS is anticipated to commence as early as October 2017 following the acceptance of the Environmental Plan (EP) for the proposed activities by NOPSEMA. The acquisition time is expected to be up to approximately 50-60 days and to be completed before 31st December 2018.</p>
Decision:	Not reasonably satisfied
Decision date:	12/10/2017
Resubmission due date³:	11/11/2017
Decision made by:	Representative of NOPSEMA: Environment Manager - Drilling & Developments

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
- (e) includes an appropriate implementation strategy and monitoring, recording and reporting arrangements
- (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.