Offshore Petroleum Activities
Environmental Management Regulation and Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

Environmental and Scientific Coordinators Workshop

Dr Christine Lamont
August 2012
Independent statutory authority

- State/NT Ministers for Resources
- Commonwealth Minister for Resources
- NOPSEMA Advisory Board Chair
- Department of Resources, Energy & Tourism Secretary
- NOPSEMA NOPSEMA CEO
- National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA)
Legislation administered by NOPSEMA

Commonwealth *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006*

Schedule 3 – OHS law

Safety regulations

Wells via resource mgt regulations

Environment regulations
NOPSEMA

Scope of regulation – jurisdiction

Relevant State/NT Minister

or

NOPSEMA where powers conferred*

* Currently no conferrals for environment
Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC90)

- **International**
  - Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act
  - Environment Regulations
  - Other relevant legislation
  - National Plan
  - Operator’s EP (with OSCP)

- **Australia**
Responsibilities under National Plan

- Statutory agency for oil spill incidents from offshore petroleum activities
- NOT a combat agency (no legislated functions)
- Combat agency = Operator
- State Statutory combat agency = DoT
  - Aware of trans-boundary issues
  - Partially addressed through stakeholder consultation process
NOPSEMA’s approach to oil spill preparedness and response

- Focus is on pre-planning by Operator
- Operator must demonstrate preparedness in EP/OSCP
- Acceptance of EP provides prior approval of oil spill response strategies (e.g. dispersant application)
- In the event of a spill, NOPSEMA will monitor and enforce compliance with EP/OSCP
- NOPSEMA has powers to direct a titleholder to respond to an offshore petroleum incident, where required
- NOPSEMA may investigate accidents/occurrences involving deficiencies in environmental management.
Guidance and advice

• NOPSEMA has/is developing advice to assist operators prepare robust OSCPs and meet the requirements of the OPGGS(E) Regulations
• OSCP Guidance has been published on the website
• Explanatory Note: Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Arrangements for Offshore Petroleum Activities in Commonwealth Waters
• OSMP Guidance is in prep to meet recommendation 90 of Montara Commission of Inquiry

www.nopsema.gov.au
Questions?