Environmental regulation of offshore petroleum activities

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Offshore Spills

Ixtoc 1, 1979 – ~2,739 m³/day (365 days)
Montara, 2009 – ~57m³/day (78 days)
Macondo, 2010 - ~4,000-10,000m³/day (90 days)
Montara 2009
Introducing NOPSEMA

- 2005: NOPSA established for regulation of safety
- 2009: Productivity commission recommended a single national regulator for offshore petroleum in 2009
- 2011: Montara Commission of Enquiry Government Final Response to 99 out of 105 recommendations accepted:
  - Establish a single, independent national regulator for Petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters and in waters where state responsibilities have been conferred
  - National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA)
  - NOPTA for administering titles
- 1 January 2012: NOPSEMA commenced
Vision

A safe and environmentally responsible Australian offshore petroleum industry

Mission

To independently and professionally regulate offshore safety, integrity and environmental management
Legal framework for Environmental Management


Environment Regulations 2009
Regulation 13, 14, 15, 16
Regulation 11(2)
NOPSEMA’s Functions

- Develop and implement effective environmental monitoring and enforcement strategies
- Investigate environmental incidents
- Report to Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers as appropriate
- Advise on matters relating to environmental management
- Cooperate with NOPTA and other Commonwealth and relevant state/NT agencies
NOPSEMA’s regulatory activities

Assessment
Inspection
Investigation
Enforcement
Jurisdiction with single regulator

Commonwealth waters
Key feedback and advice

- Environment plan is the documentation of the outcome of a *process*
- Submission should comply with regulations
- Regulator must make a decision in 30 days