Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulation

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Presentation overview

- NOPSEMA’s role
- Environmental approval process
- Regulatory requirements for environment plans
- Oil pollution prevention
- Oil pollution preparedness
- Consultation requirements
Independent statutory authority
Environmental approval process

All Activities

Proposed activity

EP Process

Stakeholder consultation
Relevant persons

Environment plan
Demonstrate ALARP, acceptable levels and consultation

Submission and assessment
Public notification on website

Regulatory decision
Approve or reject

Revision of EP can be triggered by new information
e.g. from the public

Safety Case
Protecting the workforce

WOMP
Designing the well
The Environment Plan

• Must identify and evaluate all impacts and risks
• Must demonstrate impacts and risks are acceptable and reduced to as low as reasonably practicable
• Must include performance outcomes and standards
• Must demonstrate appropriate consultation
• Must include an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
Drilling location

[Map showing drilling locations with labels such as Adelaide, Sedum, and others, with distances marked in 400km and 600km.]
Prevention of an oil pollution event is the primary focus of NOPSEMA.

Controls in place to reduce this risk are considered by a specialised well integrity team.

Multiple barriers must be in place at all times to prevent a loss of well control which could lead to an oil spill event.

The likelihood of an oil spill incident depends specifically on the type of well to be drilled, the reservoir and the barriers in place to prevent a spill.
Oil pollution risk

• A global database is maintained of well control incidents that have occurred internationally since 1980.
• An indicative likelihood of a well blowout for a deep water well drilled in accordance with comparable standards to Australia is approximately $2.5 \times 10^{-4}$ or 2.5 in 10000 wells drilled.
• More than 3000 wells have been drilled offshore Australia with only one significant oil spill in the last 30 years (Montara 2009)
Oil Pollution Preparedness

Assess case for preparedness

Monitor and enforce compliance

Regulatory oversight during response
• Consultation is fundamental to understanding the risks and potential impacts of a proposed offshore petroleum activity
• Titleholders must consult with those who may be affected by their activity
• Titleholders may also consult with a broader range of stakeholders to inform environmental management
• Ahead of regulatory changes, NOPSEMA has agreed to facilitate public comment on Equinor’s environment plan
Questions?