

Liaison

Document No: N-06100-PL0749 A142996

Date: 29/05/2020

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide an overview of the general principles that the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) applies in relation to liaison meetings with current and prospective operators of *facilities* and titleholders associated with offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage operations or activities (collectively; primary duty holders).

2. Scope

This policy applies to liaison with primary duty-holders with respect to:

- a. promotion of occupational health and safety of persons engaged in offshore petroleum operations or offshore greenhouse gas storage operations;
- b. advice on occupational health and safety matters relating to offshore petroleum operations or offshore greenhouse gas storage operations;
- c. advice on matters relating to the structural integrity of: facilities; wells, or well-related equipment; and
- d. advice on matters relating to offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage environmental management,

in accordance with s.646 of the Commonwealth Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006.

Liaison associated with specific ongoing inspections or assessments is not included in this scope and is addressed by the respective Inspection and Assessment policies. Liaison meetings rely on voluntary involvement of the primary duty-holders and are generally not forums at which the Authority will exercise its regulatory powers.

3. Relevant legislation

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2009

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011

4. Liaison

NOPSEMA shall, consistent with this policy, liaise with primary duty holders either on its own initiative or on request. The nature of these meetings will typically be either: introductory; or a periodic review; or a

vehicle to exchange general information, advice and guidance on a particular topic. NOPSEMA, with respect to periodic reviews and dependent on having meaningful information to convey, shall, where reasonably practicable, offer liaison meetings with each primary duty-holder at least annually where petroleum or greenhouse gas storage operations or activities are being undertaken continuously throughout the year. NOPSEMA shall consider offering liaison meetings with primary duty holders that have not been active continuously throughout the year, on a case-by-case basis. The main objective of these meetings will be to jointly review the duty holder's performance in a regulatory context against the backdrop of its peers.

NOPSEMA initiated, periodic review liaison meetings will typically include:

- NOPSEMA overview of relevant industry and operator/title holder activities;
- OHS, environmental or well integrity related performance information, as relevant; and
- NOPSEMA overview of recent inspections and assessments outcomes.

4.1. Approach to requested liaison meetings

NOPSEMA will provide advice on its interpretation of the regulations in a general sense, and can discuss possible approaches to safety, well integrity and environmental management consistent with its published guidance material.

NOPSEMA will not pre-empt its formal decision making in liaison meetings by, for example, contributing to a duty-holder's risk assessment process, or its management solutions and options and will not endorse a duty holder's particular proposed course of action.