

From: Sue McCarrey
Sent: Mon, 9 Feb 2026 20:30:28 +0000
To: [REDACTED]; Compliance Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Update: Upcoming Decision on CGG Regia Marine Seismic Survey EP
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks for the heads up [REDACTED] and thank you to the team, a tough assessment

Sue



Sue McCarrey | Chief Executive Officer



National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

T: [REDACTED] | **W:** nopsema.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:52:02 PM
To: Compliance Committee <com-cc@nopsema.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Update: Upcoming Decision on CGG Regia Marine Seismic Survey EP [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Dear Compliance Committee

I am providing this update in advance of the planned decision given the high level of public and stakeholder interest in this assessment and to ensure alignment on next steps. Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback.

Following a lengthy assessment process that began in 2024, we intend to refuse the CGG Regia Marine Seismic Survey (MSS) Environment Plan (EP) on **11 February 2026**, as it does not meet the acceptance criteria under the Environment Regulations.

Despite extensive engagement, including three opportunities for CGG to address identified issues, the EP still does not demonstrate compliance.

Reasons for Non-Acceptance:

Significant issues remain under acceptance criteria:

- 34(c): Environmental impacts and risks reduced to acceptable levels
- 34(d): Environmental performance outcomes
- 34(e): Implementation strategy

A key deficiency is that the EP does not demonstrate that underwater noise impacts, including to EPBC Act protected matters, will be reduced to acceptable levels. This is because:

1. Impact predictions are unreliable, with two modelling studies producing materially different impact ranges that are not reconciled or justified.
2. Some control measures rely on the least conservative predictions and are not commensurate with the level of uncertainty (e.g. limited evidence that shutdown zone for blue whales would meet Conservation Management Plan objectives).
3. Adaptive management is inadequate, with limited corrective measures if source verification identifies exceedances, leaving a gap in the ability to manage impacts should predictions prove unreliable.

Engagement and communication strategy

Given the high level of public interest (14,848 comments received), we propose the following:

- **CGG:** Decision notification to be issued on 11 February 2026, followed by an offer of a meeting to discuss the decision.
- **Statement of Reasons:** Being drafted and ready for publication upon request.
- **Media:** Draft talking points and a HTB have been prepared.

Broader engagement:

- **AEP:** Meeting requested with [REDACTED] to discuss upcoming seismic activities and opportunities to improve quality EPs.
- **ENGEO:** Meeting requested with [REDACTED] to discuss upcoming seismic activities and opportunities to improve quality EPs.

- **NOPSEMA Environment Bulletin:** Underwater Sound Impact Evaluation to be published by end of next week.

I would also like to acknowledge the considerable efforts of the assessment team led by [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] technical work, and the valuable contributions from across NOPSEMA, including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Their work on this complex assessment is greatly appreciated.

Please let me know if you have any questions or any feedback or suggestions regarding next steps.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Regulatory Operations | Exploration, Development & Decommissioning



NOPSEMA

Australia's offshore
energy regulator

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

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