

# Well operations management plan assessment

Document No: N-04600-PL0842 A166941

Date: 31/03/2026

---

## 1. Purpose

This purpose of this policy is to provide a documented, systematic and consistent approach for the conduct of assessments of well operations management plans (WOMPs), WOMP revisions and resubmissions.

This policy supports and provides additional detail to the overarching Assessment Policy: N-04000-PL0050 – Assessment.

## 2. Scope

The assessment of WOMPs, WOMP revisions or WOMP resubmissions to NOPSEMA under the relevant regulations.

## 3. Relevant legislation

*Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (OPGGGS Act).

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2025 (RMA Regulations).

The relevant state or Territory legislation may apply in the event the state or territory governments confer powers to NOPSEMA for the regulation of wells in state or territory waters. The regulations may or may not mirror the Commonwealth legislation. For simplicity, this policy only makes explicit reference to the Commonwealth legislation.

## 4. Well operations management plan assessment

### 4.1. NOPSEMA engagement in relation to well operations management plan submissions

NOPSEMA has a legislated function under section 646 (f) and (gf) of the OPGGS Act to provide advice on:

- occupational health and safety matters relating to offshore petroleum operations or offshore greenhouse gas storage operations
- matters relating to the non-OHS structural integrity of facilities (within the meaning of Schedule 3), wells and well-related equipment located in Commonwealth waters.

As part of this legislated function, NOPSEMA is committed to being responsive to titleholders' information needs during the well operations assessment process. This includes engagement with the titleholder from their entry into the regime through to commencement of their well activities.

## 4.2. WOMP assessment decisions and notifications

Titleholders shall be notified of assessment decisions in accordance with RMA Regulation section 79(6) and (7).

### 4.2.1. WOMP and WOMP revisions

For a new or revised WOMP, NOPSEMA will, within 30 days of receipt of a submission, in accordance with section 79(1):

- if NOPSEMA is reasonably satisfied that the plan meets the criteria in section 81 - accept the plan; or
- if NOPSEMA is not reasonably satisfied that the plan meets those criteria, provide the titleholder a reasonable opportunity to modify and resubmit the WOMP; or
- if NOPSEMA is unable to make a decision on the plan, give the titleholder written notice and a proposed timetable for NOPSEMA's consideration of the plan.

NOPSEMA considers that generally a single opportunity to modify and resubmit, together with up to two requests for further written information per submission or resubmission, constitutes a reasonable opportunity under section 81.

### 4.2.2. Consideration after opportunity for resubmission

When a WOMP is resubmitted after an opportunity to modify it, NOPSEMA may, within 30 days of receipt of a submission in accordance with section 79(4)(a) accept the plan or, if NOPSEMA is not reasonably satisfied in accordance with section 79(4)(b):

- provide a further opportunity to resubmit;
- refuse to accept the resubmitted plan;
- accept the plan subject to conditions; or
- accept the plan in part and, if required, subject to conditions.

Where NOPSEMA notifies a titleholder that it is unable to make a decision within 30 days NOPSEMA will, in accordance with section 79(1)(c) or 79(4)(c) for a resubmission, give the titleholder notice in writing and set out a proposed timetable for consideration of the plan.

At any stage during the assessment process NOPSEMA may request the titleholder provide further written information (section 80). Where such a request has been made, this information will be assessed as if it had been included in the WOMP, WOMP revision or resubmission. NOPSEMA will generally reach a decision as per section 4.2.1 or 4.2.2 as appropriate within 10 days of receiving the titleholder's response. As mentioned above, if NOPSEMA is not able to make a decision within the 30-day assessment timeframe, NOPSEMA will provide a notice under section 79(1)(c) or 79(4)(c), as appropriate.

## 4.3. Pre-assessment

All WOMP submissions made to NOPSEMA shall undergo a pre-assessment process to confirm that:

- the requirements of RMA Regulations, Part 5, have been met (details of person making submission)

- the basis for making the submission is clear (i.e. under which section or sub-section the submission is being made)
- the submission is being made by a sole titleholder, or a nominated titleholder where there is more than one registered holder of the title (OPGGs Act, Section 775B)
- NOPSEMA's preference for one electronic copy has been met.

An unsuccessful pre-assessment may result in a submission being returned or the commencement of the assessment being delayed.

The titleholder will be notified in writing when a submission or resubmission has been received and the assessment has commenced.

#### **4.4. Assumption that information submitted by the titleholder is correct**

In general, a fundamental assumption will be made that the information provided by the titleholder in the submission is correct.

#### **4.5. Assessment in accordance with the regulations**

The assigned assessor shall make judgements on the compliance of the submission with the OPGGS (RMAR) based on the content of the submission and any further written information requested by NOPSEMA during the course of the assessment (section 80).

NOPSEMA's acceptance decision shall be based on an assessment of the complete submission against the contents and acceptance criteria contained in the OPGGS (RMAR), with consideration of the Guidance Note – N-04600-1602 WOMP Content and level of detail.

For new and revised WOMPs, NOPSEMA must satisfy itself that the submission meets the criteria for acceptance specified in section 81.

In the case of resubmitted WOMPs, NOPSEMA shall accept the submission based on its compliance with section 79(4) (refer to Section 4.2.2).

Assessment of a revision to an accepted WOMP will generally focus on the basis for the proposed revision and need not necessarily involve a complete reassessment of the plan. However, the assessor must still be satisfied, before recommending acceptance of the revised WOMP, that it meets the criteria for acceptance specified in section.

In all cases, a complete WOMP must be submitted.

#### **4.6. Requests for further written information**

If a titleholder submits a WOMP (including by resubmitting a plan in response to a notice under section 79(2)), NOPSEMA may ask the titleholder to provide further written information about any matter that is required under section 81 to be included in the WOMP.

The request must:

- be in writing
- set out each matter for which information is requested

- specify a reasonable period within which the information is to be provided.

If a titleholder receives a request, and provides information requested by the regulator within the period specified or within a longer period agreed to by NOPSEMA:

- the information becomes part of the WOMP
- NOPSEMA must have regard to the information as if it had been included in the WOMP when it was submitted.

NOPSEMA shall only make a maximum of two requests for further written information per submission or resubmission under section 80.

#### **4.7. WOMP may be accepted in part**

The RMA Regulations allows NOPSEMA to accept part of a WOMP (section 79(6)(d)). The acceptance by NOPSEMA of a part shall be taken as the refusal to accept the other parts of the WOMP. Generally, and in the absence of any other reasons, NOPSEMA's inability to reach a decision to accept a whole plan shall be deemed to be an indicator of the plan's quality, and hence a refusal to accept decision is preferred over accepting a plan in part.

#### **4.8. Acceptance decisions shall typically be unconditional**

Although the regulations make provision for imposing conditions on the acceptance of a WOMP (section 79(4) or 79(6)), the imposition of conditions shall generally not be done. In the absence of any other reasons, NOPSEMA's inability to reach a decision to accept a WOMP, WOMP revision or resubmitted WOMP without conditions shall be deemed to be an indicator of the submission's quality.

#### **4.9. Refuse to accept the plan decision**

Where NOPSEMA is not reasonably satisfied a WOMP meets the acceptance criteria, and after providing a reasonable opportunity to modify and submit the WOMP, NOPSEMA must refuse to accept the WOMP. In accordance with section 79(4) and (6) of the RMA Regulations, NOPSEMA must notify the titleholder in writing of the reasons for its decision, set out the reasons and the terms (if applicable) for the decision.

Where NOPSEMA has refused to accept a WOMP revision in accordance with section 79(4), the previously accepted WOMP remains in force. However, NOPSEMA will consider whether it is appropriate to withdraw acceptance of the WOMP in force in accordance with RMA Regulations, section 91.

### **5. Assessment of an 'End of WOMP' report**

In accordance with section 73(2) of the RMA Regulations, a WOMP ceases to be in force if:

- (a) the titleholder permanently abandons the well or wells covered by the plan; and
- (b) the titleholder gives NOPSEMA a written report of the process that was carried out in abandoning the well or wells, and the outcome of that process; and
- (c) NOPSEMA notifies the titleholder in writing that NOPSEMA is reasonably satisfied that the process of abandoning the well or wells has been carried out in accordance with the WOMP.

NOPSEMA considers well abandonments as described in the latest editions of NORSOK-D010 and/or Oil and Gas UK guidance and standards as good industry practices. Titleholders choosing to abandon wells using alternative methods shall provide NOPSEMA with a description using first principles and proven track records from recognised regulatory regimes to support the risk to as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) argument and be detailed in the accepted WOMP.

## **6. Related documents**

N-04600-GN1601	Well operations management plan lifecycle management
N-04600-GN1602	Well operations management plan content and level of detail