



Ass # 525
Bull # 520
State # 148

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (PURSUANT
TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT
1986)**

**PROPOSED OFFSHORE PETROLEUM DRILLING
IN EP TP/7 AND TL/2, NORTH WEST SHELF (SAS)**

Western Mining Corporation Ltd

This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made in the Consultative Environmental Review for all wells proposed as part of the programme specified in the Consultative Environmental Review. (A copy of the commitments is attached).
2. Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.
- 3a. The proponent shall, at least three weeks prior to the commencement of drilling of further exploration wells contained within the programme described in the Consultative Environmental Review, other than at the two locations specifically proposed in the Consultative Environmental Review, provide to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority additional details of the exact locations of any additional wells and descriptions of the adjacent environment together with any proposed site-specific modifications to environmental management provisions for those locations. The proponent shall subsequently implement the proposals to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- 3b. The proponent shall, prior to implementing any further drilling beyond that in the programme proposed in the Consultative Environmental Review or development plans resulting from that programme, refer proposals for such further work to the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment.
4. The proponent shall, prior to drilling the first well, implement arrangements to accept responsibility for any adverse environmental impacts, which may occur as a consequence of the proposal proceeding, to the satisfaction of the Minister for the Environment after consultation with the Minister for Fisheries.

Published on

24 JUN 1991

5. The proponent shall, prior to the use of any drilling rig other than a jack-up type, provide plans for its use and environmental management to the Environmental Protection Authority for evaluation and subsequently implement appropriate environmental management plans for that rig to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
6. The proponent shall, prior to drilling the first well, provide on or adjacent to the rig the capability to contain small oil spillages to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice from the Department of Mines.
7. The proponent shall only refuel the rig when weather and sea state conditions are sufficiently calm to permit containment and recovery of any fuel oil which may be spilt, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice from the Department of Mines.
8. In order to minimise the likelihood of failure of the well casing, the proponent shall, prior to drilling ahead, pressure test each string of casing to the satisfaction of the Director, Petroleum Division, Department of Mines.
- 9a. The proponent shall, prior to drilling out the top section of the conductor pipe of the first well, successfully trial run a simulated oil spill contingency plan, up to the point of the deployment of resources, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice from the State Committee for Combatting Marine Oil Pollution.
- 9b. The proponent shall run further oil spill contingency plan simulations at least once a year or for each change of rig whichever is the sooner, for the duration of the programme in the Consultative Environmental Review, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority.
10. The proponent shall be responsible for decommissioning the rig and any wells and rehabilitating the site and its environs to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice from the Director, Petroleum Division, Department of Mines.
11. No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.
12. If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced. Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period, to the Minister for the Environment by way of a request for a change in the condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority).


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MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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1. Relevant government departments will be given full details of each proposed well before drilling commences, (page 13). Exact details of well locations, seafloor communities, adjacent marine resources and nearby communities at risk from a large spill will be obtained, (page 49), and will be forwarded to the EPA prior to the drilling of each well, (page 50).
2. Drilling locations will be chosen to maximise the distance from sensitive locations within TP/7 and TL/2, (page 39).
3. Should any particularly sensitive areas be found as a consequence of the site survey, a new monitoring site will be established and a post-drilling survey made to confirm the predictions of the CER, (page 49).
4. Support for drilling rigs will be identical to the arrangements currently used for the production facility, (page 16).
5. Separate support vessels to that used for the "Vicksburg" operation will be employed for the drilling program, (page 16).
6. Discharge of cuttings will be done when currents are strong to ensure that turbidity in the immediate vicinity of the rig is minimised, (page 38). If a well is located near a reef or other sensitive community, drilling solids will be pumped directly to the sea floor via a flexible pipeline, (page 39).
7. The company's Environment and Safety Engineer will monitor all routine discharges, (page 39).
8. All personnel involved in the drilling program will be given an environmental and safety indoctrination. A brief pamphlet will be produced specifically for the purpose and will be distributed during face-to-face indoctrination, (page 44).
9. EPA, CALM and Department of Mines will be kept fully informed of the environmental impact of the drilling program through the inclusion of a separate section in the existing annual report that is produced as part of the conditions for existing production facilities, (page 50).

* Page numbers refer to the proponent's CER.