



Ass # 734

Bull # 674

State # 308

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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

**GAS PIPELINE FROM GRIFFIN OILFIELD TO MAINLAND FACILITY
NEAR ONSLOW (734)**

BHP PETROLEUM PTY LTD

Those parts of this proposal associated with the submarine pipeline, the on-shore pipeline to the gas treatment plant, the gas treatment plant and the LPG pipeline, may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1 Proponent Commitments

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 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 and in response to issues raised following public submissions. (A copy of the appropriate commitments, extracted from Appendix 1 of Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 674, is attached.)

2 Implementation

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 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.

3 Rehabilitation of Coastal Dunes

The coastal sand dunes which will be affected by the emplacement of the pipeline are subject to erosion and need to be rehabilitated as soon as possible after emplacement of the pipe.

- 3-1 Within three months of completion of construction of the pipeline through the coastal dunes, the proponent shall return the pipeline route contours of the coastal sand dunes to their original state, to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy.

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3-2 Commencing within 12 months following commissioning of the pipeline, the proponent shall submit to the Environmental Protection Authority annual reports detailing the progress of rehabilitation of the dunes, until the Environmental Protection Authority, on advice of the Department of Minerals and Energy, considers that the rehabilitation has been satisfactorily completed.

4 Decommissioning

The satisfactory decommissioning of the project, removal of the plant and installations and rehabilitation of the site and its environs is the responsibility of the proponent.

4-1 At least six months prior to decommissioning, the proponent shall prepare a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan.

4-2 The proponent shall implement the plan required by condition 4-1.

5 Proponent

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

5-1 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.

6 Time Limit on Approval

The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

6-1 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.)

7 Compliance Auditing

In order to ensure that environmental conditions and commitments are met, an audit system is required.

7-1 The proponent shall prepare periodic "Progress and Compliance Reports", to help verify the environmental performance of this project, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority and the Department of Minerals and Energy.

Procedure

The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for verifying compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, with the exception of conditions stating that the proponent shall meet the requirements of either the Minister for the Environment or any other government agency.

If the Environmental Protection Authority, other government agency or proponent is in dispute concerning compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, that dispute will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Note

- (1) This proposal is subject to the Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969, and reports demonstrating compliance with the conditions and requirements of that Act, administered by the Department of Minerals and Energy, can be co-ordinated with reports required by these environmental conditions where appropriate.
- (2) This statement is one of two issued simultaneously to each proponent for this proposal, reported on in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 674. The different activities by each proponent have necessitated separate statements.

Kevin Minson MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

17 MAR 1993

PROPONENT'S COMMITMENTS

GAS PIPELINE FROM GRIFFIN OILFIELD
TO MAINLAND FACILITY
NEAR ONSLOW (734)

BHP PETROLEUM PTY LTD

SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS - BHP PETROLEUM PTY. LTD.

Overview

The Griffin gas pipeline development will be undertaken by the proponents using the design criteria, construction methods and management actions as described in the Consultative Environmental Review (LeProvost Environmental Consultants and Astron Engineering, 1992) and summarised below. The proponent is committed to undertaking the project in a manner that will maximise the safety of operations, the health of the workforce, and the protection of the environment.

Offshore Pipeline

1. The offshore pipeline will be installed along the preferred route, and therefore no pipe-laying activities will be carried out within 1.2 km of islands and major coral reef areas.
2. The offshore pipeline will avoid traversing isolated limestone platform reefs near the mainland coastline.
3. An Emergency Response Plan (incorporating a cyclone contingency plan as appropriate) will be implemented for the pipelay fleet and for normal operations.
4. An Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Griffin oil fields development will be submitted to Government for approval. The Emergency Response Plan for the construction phase will address oil spills.
5. The beach site used to pull the offshore pipeline on to the mainland shore will not exceed an area of 150 m x 150 m on the toe of the foredune.
6. Prior to, and during, offshore construction activities liaison will be undertaken with local fishermen. Reasonable efforts will be made to bury the pipeline where it crosses the Onslow Area 1 fishing grounds, so that present prawn trawling activities can continue. Should burial not be practical for environmental or technical reasons, discussions will be held with potentially affected fishermen to determine arrangements for a 500 m exclusion zone.
7. It is intended that treated seawater used to hydrotest the offshore pipeline will be discharged in deep water, i.e. at the FPSO end of the pipeline.
8. A marine monitoring programme (covering routine operational procedures, sediment plume monitoring, and corals colonising nearshore limestone reefs near the mainland coast) will be designed in consultation with and implemented to the requirements of the EPA prior to the start of offshore construction activities. Results from the marine monitoring programme will be made available to the EPA and any interested members of the public at the end of the construction period.

9. When the Griffin development is finally complete, operations finished and abandoned, in accordance with the requirements of WADME and the gas pipeline is no longer required it will be flooded with seawater, plugged and abandoned.

Onshore Pipeline

10. Disturbance to flora, fauna and landform will be minimised by utilising previously disturbed areas wherever practical, and by ensuring easement widths are kept as small as is practically, and safely, possible.
11. A set of environmental rules and regulations will be established for education of all those involved on site including the onshore construction workforce (penalties will be applied to any contractor who breaks these regulations).
12. The onshore pipeline route across the coastal sand dunes will be contoured and vegetated.
13. Dune disturbance and erosion will be minimised by (a) allowing the pipeline to follow the existing topography, (b) erecting temporary fences to keep vehicles, equipment and workforce within 60 m of the centreline of the pipeline corridor, and (c) rehabilitating the pipeline corridor to its original condition or better, wherever possible.
14. In the event that water is encountered during excavation of the pipeline trench, contamination of the aquifer will be minimised by use of appropriate construction techniques.
15. The onshore gas pipeline will be installed along existing easements between Tubridgi gas well No. 5 and the proposed gas plant.
16. Clearing of vegetation and disturbance to landforms will be done such that adequate drainage remains available to the remaining vegetation and rehabilitated areas during both the construction and operational phases.
17. Erosion and rutting of soils along vehicular tracks during the construction phase will be minimised by undertaking regular track inspections and maintenance.
18. Pipeline route inspections by operators will occur at approximately two-monthly intervals.
19. Erosion will be managed by spreading gravel, constructing furrows and placing rocks and rip-rap as required.

20. Erosion of new work (e.g. unvegetated areas) by natural flood events will be made good, and improved drainage provided. This includes the repair of any rain-induced erosion during the construction or operational phases, which will be undertaken as soon as possible after it occurs.
21. Areas where soil compaction has occurred will be ripped at the end of the construction phase to promote re-vegetation.
22. Any accidental fuel or lubricating oil spillage causing soil pollution will be treated by removing the contaminated soil for burial at an approved land fill site.
23. Naked flames will be banned during periods of high fire risk, and the importance of fire prevention will be incorporated into the environmental education of the construction workforce.
24. Fire-fighting equipment will be available during construction.
25. Surface waters will be monitored for any undesirable effects, and if surface water supplies are used during the construction period, any accidental damage to the banks of rivers or pools will be rectified, if necessary by hand.
26. Any aboriginal relics discovered during the work will be treated in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. Potential accidental damage to known or unknown Aboriginal sites will be minimised by secrecy and workforce education.
27. Construction and operations activities relevant to the use of the land as a pastoral lease will be discussed with the leaseholder. In particular, approval from the landholder and advice from environmental consultants will be sought if any water from bores is required in the onshore section of the pipeline.
28. Any accidental damage to pastoral station property (e.g. fences, wells, outbuildings) will be rectified and appropriate compensation paid.
29. Hydrotest water requiring disposal near the gas plant site will be allowed to evaporate within a suitable low lying area.
30. The onshore pipeline will not be exhumed as part of normal operations (routine maintenance is not required and inspections will be internal).
31. Firearms and pets will be banned from all construction camps.

32. At the end of the project the pipeline will be left in situ to minimise disturbance. All surface facilities will be removed.
33. A monitoring program will be implemented for construction and operations. It will involve compliance monitoring to ensure that environmental requirements are adhered to and biological monitoring to determine the success of rehabilitation of the dune system.

Gas Plant

34. Destruction of flora, fauna and landform will be minimised by ensuring the gas plant site is kept as small as is practically, and safely, possible. As far as practical it will be located to minimise impact on significant archaeological and environmentally sensitive areas. Any aboriginal relics discovered during the work will be treated in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.
35. If a borrow pit is required, it will be located at a site agreed to by local pastoralists after appropriate Government approval has been obtained, and the borrow pit will be managed.
36. Apart from domestic greywater and sewage, all liquid and solid wastes produced at the gas plant will be transported by road for disposal at approved land-fill sites or for recycling.
37. The sewage treatment facility and septic tank at the gas plant site will be sufficiently big enough to cope with domestic wastes produced during both the construction and operation periods.
38. Flaring at the gas plant will be minimised by efficient plant design and by ensuring that operational and maintenance procedures are maintained at a high standard.
39. Under normal operating condition noise levels will be kept below 85 dB(A) at 1 m from all ground level equipment, and below 75 dB(A) at 100 m from the plant boundary. Noise monitoring will be undertaken prior to construction, during construction and during operation of the gas plant.
40. All wastes and discharges will be managed as detailed in the Consultative Environmental Review.
41. All tanks and vessels that contain liquids will be banded.
42. At the end of the project the gas plant will be decommissioned, dismantled, and demobilised.

43. Construction and operations will be monitored by the Operator to ensure compliance with environmental obligations.
44. All personnel employed on the project will be educated about the environmental management requirements for the operation.
45. Firefighting facilities will be available during construction and within the plant boundary during operation.
46. Construction work on Urala station will be scheduled to minimise the impact on station activities as far as possible.