

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Inquiry into Australia's Oil and Gas Reserves
20 August 2021

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: QoN 4: De-Identified Plan

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 20 August 2021, Page 12)

QUESTION No.: 4

Senator PATRICK: Is there any way, noting that this seems to be a crucial document, that you could provide the committee with a de-identified plan that showed the content of them—remove the company, remove the coordinates—so that we could get a feel for what's in these documents? Alternatively, could you provide an example to the committee with the request for it to be held in confidence?

Mr Waters: Senator, I would need to seek some guidance on that.

Senator PATRICK: Sure.

Mr Waters: If I am able to, I'm more than happy to.

ANSWER

The regulations relevant to field development plans are found in Part 4 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011* (the **Regulations**).

The criteria for acceptance of a field development plan can be found in regulation 4.06 of the Regulations:

4.06 Criteria for acceptance of field development plan

- (1) The Joint Authority must accept a field development plan under paragraph 4.05(2)(a) or subregulation 4.05(5) if the Joint Authority is satisfied that:
 - (a) the plan includes the matters mentioned in subregulation 4.07(1); and
 - (b) the plan demonstrates that the person will conduct pool management in the field in a manner that is:
 - (i) consistent with good oilfield practice; and
 - (ii) compatible with optimum long-term recovery of the petroleum.
- (2) The Joint Authority must not accept a field development plan if the Joint Authority is not satisfied that the plan meets the requirements of subregulation (1).

A field development plan must include the contents detailed in regulations 4.07 of the Regulations

4.07 Contents of field development plan

- (1) For paragraph 4.06(1)(a), the matters are:
 - (a) evidence and data showing that the field contains petroleum, including details of the structure, extent and location of discovered petroleum pools; and

- (b) estimates of the volume of petroleum in place and recoverable petroleum, including data supporting the estimates; and
- (c) a description of:
 - (i) the possible petroleum pools in the field; and
 - (ii) the person's plans (if any) to explore for petroleum pools; and
 - (iii) how any petroleum pools of commercial quantity can be incorporated into the development of the licence area; and
- (d) a description of:
 - (i) an appropriate strategy for the development of the field, management of the petroleum pool and optimum long-term recovery; and
 - (ii) any proposed and alternative development scenarios; and
- (e) a description of how the person intends to extract the petroleum over time, including the following information:
 - (i) the estimated positions of wells;
 - (ii) the potential timing of workovers;
 - (iii) possible tie-ins; and
- (f) the project schedule, including an estimated development timetable of production facilities such as wells, platforms and petroleum pipelines; and
- (g) the person's operations or proposals for:
 - (i) the enhanced recovery or recycling of petroleum; and
 - (ii) the processing, storage or disposal of petroleum; and
 - (iii) the injection of petroleum or water into an underground formation; and
- (h) arrangements for:
 - (i) monitoring, recording in writing and reporting on the person's conduct of pool management; and
 - (ii) keeping records and other documents about the person's conduct of pool management; and
- (i) details of:
 - (i) the surface connections and equipment used by the person; and
 - (ii) any production by a well that is from more than one petroleum pool; and
 - (iii) any production from a petroleum pool that is through more than one well; and
- (j) the arrangements (if any) for the transport, injection and storage of greenhouse gas substances that have been obtained from a third party or other external source; and
- (k) arrangements for the maintenance of an accurate quantitative record of events, measurements and actions to which the plan relates.

(2) A field development plan may include any other information that the person believes is relevant.

A field development plan is classified as permanently confidential through its inclusion in the definition of excluded information under regulation 1.06 of the Regulations and not publicly released at any time.

See Attachment A for a de-identified contents page of a current field development plan which demonstrates the information included in the plan.

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