

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: NOPSEMA

TOPIC: New Information

REFERENCE: Written Questions – Senator Wright

QUESTION No.: BI-93

Regulation 17 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 relates to a ‘revision because of a change, or proposed change, of circumstances or operations’. With particular reference to ‘new or increased environmental impact or risk’, please provide the following information:

1. Examples of what may constitute ‘new information’ and a ‘significant new environmental impact or risk’
2. Details of the process undertaken by the titleholder upon the advent of ‘new information’, including timeframes
3. An explanation of how NOPSEMA would determine whether a particular piece of ‘new information’ would require a proposed revision.
4. An outline of the consultation a titleholder would be required to engage in upon the advent of ‘new information’

ANSWER

1. Examples of what may constitute a ‘significant new environmental impact or risk’ would be a noteworthy additional impact that was not expected and may arise from monitoring during the activity, new information provided to the titleholder by third parties or as a result in unexpected or changed conditions of the petroleum activity. The regulations do not make reference to ‘new information’.
2. Regulation 17 of the environment regulations (www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014C00210) defines the process and circumstances under which a titleholder submits a proposed revision to NOPSEMA. The regulations do not make reference to ‘new information’.
3. Regulation 18 of the environment regulations (www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014C00210) defines the process and circumstances under which NOPSEMA may issue a titleholder a request to submit a proposed revision to an environment plan in force. The regulations do not make reference to ‘new information’.
4. Regulation 11A of the environment regulations (www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014C00210) outlines the consultation titleholders are required to follow in the course of preparing a new environment plan or a proposed revision to an environment plan in force. Titleholder are also required to comply with consultation described in the implementation strategy of the environment plan accepted by NOPSEMA (see regulation 14 (9) of the environment regulations www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014C00210).