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Repository consolidation

To support the national repository model, NOPTA is undertaking the relocation of offshore petroleum mining samples and (where appropriate) hard copy data from the former Designated Authorities in each state. This program has the dual aims of consolidating the collection of physical samples in the Canberra and Perth repositories; and making the full range of supporting data available through a single point of discovery and delivery.

At this time all data from the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and New South Wales has been relocated. Hard copy data from Western Australia will be moved to Canberra for consolidation in the next month, whilst the Victorian collection will be relocated during the remainder of 2014. Digitisation of hard copy data will take considerable time and NOPTA and GA are working together to develop a program to complete this in the most cost effective manner and within a reasonable period.

Data management update

National Offshore Data and Core Repository (NOPDCR) operations

From 1 January 2012, all digital data and petroleum mining samples derived from activities undertaken under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act* (2006) (OPGGSA) must be submitted to NOPTA. As data manager to NOPTA, Geoscience Australia (GA) manages these 'in-confidence' items within the NOPDCR, now in operation for over 12 months under the direction of GA, NOPTA and the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA).

All digital well data plus 1/3 of all cores and cuttings as well as all fluids and all survey data and physical assets are managed in the NOPDCR east coast repository (GA's Canberra repository); whilst 2/3 of all cores and cuttings and all palaeontological thin sections are managed in the NOPDCR west coast repository (GSWA's Perth Repository).

Once NOPTA authorises the open-file release of data and physical samples, the NOPDCR has responsibility for ongoing management of this data, ensuring that open-file cores, cuttings, fluids, well and survey data and other physical assets are handled in the same way at both east coast and west coast facilities.

For data and physical samples 'in-confidence' as of 1 January 2012, NOPTA have defined and published rules for viewing, sampling and export of such data as well as procuring data or physical samples not previously submitted to the NOPDCR.

For data or physical samples deemed open-file at that same date GA will procure all important missing data or physical samples while GSWA will facilitate their viewing or sampling at the west repository on behalf of the NOPDCR.

Requests to view or sample physical samples at either repository should be directed to: ausgeosamples@ga.gov.au.

Proposed future releases

NOPTA has developed a list of well and survey activities that will be eligible for open-file release over the coming months after the relevant day has passed. A list of proposed releases to the end of June 2014 is available at: www.nopta.gov.au/data-mgmt/public-release.html.

Please note this is a preliminary list based upon release and completion dates presently held by the NOPDCR and NOPTA and is provided as a guide only.

Data will not become available for public release until authorised by NOPTA and actioned by the NOPDCR. The Titles Administrator or his delegate will make a decision on the formal release of data once the relevant day has passed.

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Well and survey activity listing—'always open' information

A listing of all post-NOPTA well and survey metadata is now available on the NOPTA website at: www.nopta.gov.au/data-mgmt/public-release.html

This list is compiled from Daily Drilling and Weekly Survey Reports received by NOPTA, and includes wells and surveys completed since 1 January 2012; and wells and surveys presently active. The list will be updated periodically.

Open-file data

Similarly, a spreadsheet detailing open-file releases of data authorised by NOPTA since 1 January 2012 is now available at: <http://www.nopta.gov.au/data-mgmt/public-release.html>

This list includes data submitted to the former Designated Authorities prior to NOPTA's establishment and subsequently released. Where data submitted prior to but released after NOPTA's establishment is found to be incomplete or otherwise deficient, please contact data@nopta.gov.au so that an appropriate follow-up can be made.

Please see the comments regarding data quality and compliance for the general approach taken by NOPTA and the NOPDCR on these items.

Access to all open-file digital data is available through ausgeodata@ga.gov.au



Although best endeavours are made in following up on outstanding submissions, NOPTA stresses that for data submitted prior to its establishment on 1 January 2012, no assertions are made concerning the completeness of data submitted to the former Designated Authorities now made available through ausgeodata@ga.gov.au.

Please forward any queries relating to the activities listed for future release to data@nopta.gov.au.

NOPTA-preferred transmittals

NOPTA has developed a number of transmittal documents (listed below) to streamline the data submission process and to assist in the inclusion of all regulated items. In checklist format, these transmittals enable both titleholder/operator and NOPTA to ensure all required items are provided. Comment fields should be used to explain why particular items - required under regulation—are either not included, or intended to be provided in a later submission.

- Seismic survey
- Other—geophysical or geological survey
- Wells
- Reprocessed survey

Most titleholders and operators are now using these templates, which not only assist NOPTA in compliance activities, but provide greater clarity in identifying work program commitments and special requirements. Whilst not compulsory, use of these forms is strongly encouraged.

The NOPTA transmittals are available at: www.nopta.gov.au/forms/forms.html.

Listings of data pending, due and overdue

Recently, operators were forwarded lists of data due or anticipated over the coming twelve months. These lists were compiled in relation to known well and survey activities; work program commitments and data recorded as overdue from previous known activities.

NOPTA's intention in preparing these lists is to remind titleholders of their obligations in providing reports and data; to consolidate and improve the quality of records held by both ourselves and the NOPDCR; and to come to agreement with titleholders on expectations for future submissions.

Feedback from titleholders has been generally positive, with information received helping us to achieve these objectives. NOPTA is presently updating these lists on the basis of this feedback and thanks titleholders for their cooperation.

Rig release dates and batch drilling campaigns in production areas

NOPTA understands that where batch drilling is undertaken in relation to well activities in production licenses that the data available to report on the initial drilling stage can be of limited benefit; and may be superseded by more comprehensive information at the completion stage.

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In cooperation with the NOPDCR, NOPTA has developed quality control processes for well and survey data. On submission, data is firstly checked for 'contents compliance' by NOPTA against the requirements of the OPGGSA (RMA) Regulations. Once considered complete, the data is forward to the NOPDCR (Geoscience Australia), where it is catalogued; loaded on various in-house, specialist systems and tested against agreed quality criteria.

Where data is incomplete, unreadable, corrupted or otherwise fails to meet the quality standard required, NOPTA is notified. NOPTA will then contact the data submitter and request clarification of the deficiency, or resubmission of the data.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure these checks are completed in a timely way, priority checks are made to data either due for open-file release, or data submitted since the establishment of NOPTA on 1 January 2012. Due to the volume of material requiring oversight, there will be instances where data submitted prior to this time will be released incomplete or without being subjected to these checks.

For data submitted or released after 1 January 2012, NOPTA will follow up on identified deficiencies on a case by case basis. Queries regarding the quality of open-file data released prior to NOPTA's establishment, should be directed to ausgeodata@ga.gov.au

Key NOPTA contacts

NOPTA welcomes your feedback. Please direct any questions or comments on these or any other data related matters to data@nopta.gov.au

To this end, where the drilling program is known or predictable, the second or subsequent rig release date may become the date from which the submission of data under the OPGGSA RMA Regulations is measured. To effectively manage these submissions, on application NOPTA will replace the recorded initial or interim stage rig release date with the date of rig release from final completion activities.

Where however the completion activities are not subsequently undertaken; or are delayed for what might be considered an inordinate period of time, the initial rig release date shall remain the effective date from which submission requirements and later open-file release will be measured.

This interpretation extends to all petroleum mining samples (core, cuttings etc.) required to be submitted under the regulations.

Please direct any questions on this matter to data@nopta.gov.au.

Monthly production template

Following consultation with operators earlier in 2014, NOPTA has developed a standard template for the submission of Monthly Production Reports. The template has been circulated to all reporting contacts and is to be used for all Monthly Production Reports from July 2014.

The template is designed to support NOPTA's compliance and resource management activities by ensuring that all information required by the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas (Resource Management Administration) Regulations is provided.

The template is seen as a step towards future electronic submission and is intended to standardise these reports to enable data to be more efficiently aggregated and analysed from a resource management perspective.

The Monthly Production Report template, notes on completion and a fact sheet are available at: www.nopta.gov.au/forms/forms.html and www.nopta.gov.au/legislation/factsheets/index.html

Progress towards a National Offshore Petroleum Information Management System (NOPIMS)

Under the NOPDCR banner, NOPTA, Geoscience Australia and GSWA have been cooperating on the development of an Australia-wide data discovery and delivery system for offshore wells and survey activities. Known as NOPIMS, the system is based upon an enhanced version of WA's WAPIMS technology and should become available for use during the second half of 2014.

Although data coverage and completeness will be initially limited, NOPIMS will be progressively populated with reports and data for open-file activities post 1 January 2012, with older data coming on stream towards the end of 2014 and beyond.

More information on NOPIMS will be provided as it becomes available.