



Notification of Eligible Greenhouse Gas Storage Formation

All fact sheets should be read in conjunction with the [Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006](#) (OPGGS Act), associated regulations, relevant guidelines and policies (available on [NOPTA's website](#)).

A greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment permittee, holding lessee or injection licensee must inform the responsible Commonwealth Minister (RCM) when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a part of a geological formation is situated wholly within the title area is an eligible GHG storage formation (s451 of the OPGGS Act).

Note: titleholders who have reasonable grounds to suspect that part of a geological formation is situated:

- wholly within a petroleum title¹, or
- partially within a GHG assessment permit and crosses into a State/Territory GHG assessment title or another GHG assessment permit (s451A and 451B of the OPGGS Act)

may submit a notification of eligible GHG storage formation however, in these cases all relevant titleholders are strongly encouraged to talk to NOPTA about any eligible storage formation(s).

Definition of eligible GHG storage formation

There are three categories of a GHG storage formation(s):

- potential
- **eligible**
- identified

For further information on each category of GHG storage formation see [Table 1](#) below and the [Offshore GHG Guideline - Declaration of Identified GHG Storage Formation Guideline](#).

Notification

A notification under s451, s451A or s451B of the OPGGS Act by a GHG assessment permittee, holding lessee or injection licensee must be submitted in writing as soon as practicable (within 30 days) once the GHG titleholder has reasonable grounds to suspect that part of a geological formation is an eligible GHG storage formation. The eligible GHG formation(s) must be wholly situated in the GHG assessment permit, holding lease or injection licence area.

The written notice must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- title details
- titleholder(s)
- specify the amount that could be stored
- specify the injection point(s) and the injection period
- specify the GHG substance to be stored
- the reasonable grounds for the suspicion e.g., seal and trapping mechanism, modelling of estimated plume migration and spatial extent
- if any engineering enhancements are required, a written statement describing them, and
- the graticular blocks covering the eligible GHG storage formation.

Note: a notification of eligible GHG storage formation must be submitted prior to submitting an application to declare an identified storage formation (DoSF) under s312 or s312A of the OPGGS Act. Therefore, NOPTA does not expect a titleholder to have finalised the graticular blocks at the eligible notification stage. It is expected further work will be required to meet the requirements of a DoSF. Please refer to the [Offshore GHG Guideline - Declaration of Identified GHG Storage Formation](#) for further information.

Note: a person commits an offence if the person omits to do an act and the omission breaches the requirements.

How do I apply?

Notification for each eligible GHG storage formation can be submitted to ghg@nopta.gov.au.

More information

If you have any specific questions, please contact NOPTA via ghg@nopta.gov.au.

Please note: this document is intended as a guide only and should not be relied on as legal advice or regarded as a substitute for legal advice in individual cases.

Version history

Version	Date	Comment
2.0	18/03/2024	Update to include CBA references
1.0	28/10/2022	New fact sheet.

¹ The OPGGS Act does permit some GHG exploration under petroleum titles such as exploring the title area for potential GHG storage formations or potential injection sites (requirements on notification of authorised activity under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Resource Management and Administration) Regulations 2011*)



Table 1: Categories of GHG storage formation

<p>Potential (s20 of the OPGGS Act)</p>	<p>s20 of the OPGGS Act states that a 'potential' GHG storage formation is a part of a geological formation which is suitable (with/without engineering enhancements) for the permanent storage of a GHG substance.</p> <p>Regard may be given to reasonably foreseeable technological developments in determining the suitability of a part of a geological formation to be a potential GHG storage formation.</p> <p>It is not necessary to submit a notification of potential GHG storage formation or identify the GHG substance at this point.</p>
<p>Eligible (s21 of the OPGGS Act)</p>	<p>s21 of the OPGGS Act describes an eligible GHG storage formation as a part of a geological formation which is suitable (with/without engineering enhancements) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• permanent storage of a GHG substance (a particular type of GHG substance injected at a particular point(s) over a particular period)• the amount of GHG substance must be at least 100 000 tonnes. <p>The spatial extent (vertical and horizontal) of the GHG storage formation is defined by the expected migration pathway(s) over the (predicted) period of injection for the period from commencement of injection to the notional site closing certificate time.</p> <p>A notification under s451 is required once a GHG storage formation that is wholly within a title is considered eligible.</p>
<p>Identified (s312 or 312A of the OPGGS Act)</p>	<p>An 'identified' GHG storage formation is an 'eligible' GHG storage formation that is 'declared' by the relevant decision maker under s312(11) or 312A(11) as an 'identified' GHG storage formation following an application by a titleholder.</p> <p>The declaration of an 'identified' GHG storage formation provides the mechanism for transitioning, for example, from a GHG assessment permit to a GHG injection licence.</p>