



## **Exploration Permit**

# **VIC/P41**

## **Quarterly Report**

**14 November 2003 – 13 February 2004**

**Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd**

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## VIC/P41

### QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

**14 NOVEMBER 2003 to 13 FEBRUARY 2004**

#### 1. PARTICIPATING INTERESTS

Bass Strait Oil Company Ltd	75% (Operator, Joint Venture Partner)
Eagle Bay Resources NL	25% (Joint Venture Partner)

#### 2. TITLE AND GOVERNMENT RELATED MATTERS

GM, Exploration, Ian Reid represented BSOC at the inaugural meeting of the APPEA/ Victorian Petroleum Exploration And Development Reference Group with the Victorian DPI and other offshore operators on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The agenda was as follows:

1. Moonlight Heads Seismic non-approval- advice from Minister's office, further comments and questions from industry.
2. SERMP/IOM/MPA's
  - a. Update from Murray Canyon MPA workshop- issues for Adjacent Area Victoria (Led by MP)- followed by discussion.
  - b. Victorian industry issues with SERMP, IOM and MPA processes
3. Otway Fisheries Research proposal- status and information item
4. Compensation- Principles- status of APPEA process
5. EPBC Administrative Guidelines
6. Any other issues.

The meeting was well attended with representatives from nearly all offshore Victorian operators present. A lively discussion ensued with particular emphasis on industry concerns on access for seismic survey work following the non-approval of the Moonlight Heads Survey proposed by Benaris in Vic/P38 (V) by the Minister administering the *National Parks Act* (1975). The survey proposal received considerable media attention, including a story by Victoria's Stateline programme (ABC), as well as press releases. BSOC and Santos attendees expressed concern about these recent developments especially in the light of the potential Marine Protected Areas to cover most of the offshore Gippsland Basin.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2003 a letter requesting a 12 month suspension of Vic/P41 Year 5 and extension of the permit was submitted to the DPI. This was requested on the basis that there were no 3D seismic recording vessels in the area, or planned to be in the area, and that there was no potential to complete the 250 sq km survey before the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2004 anniversary.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2004 the DPI accepted BSOC's offer of a meeting and presentation to provide background to the request for suspension and extension. The DPI also sought clarification on various points and a response was provided on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2004 and copied to the JV.

A meeting with the DPI was consequently held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2004. BSOC discussed the Vic/P41 leads and proposed survey location, and gave an update on vessel availability. It was

also an opportunity to meet Phil Roberts, new Director - Minerals and Petroleum Regulation, who attended.

At quarter's end, BSOC was yet to hear from the Joint Authority regarding the request for suspension and extension.

Original data from the Scorpion 2D Seismic Survey acquired in October 2001 by Eagle Bay Resources NL (EBR), was submitted to the DPI in accordance with the P(SL)A.

### **3. EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1 Seismic Acquisition**

In November, the PGS 3D vessel *Orient Explorer* completed the Woodside / Santos Otway Basin work, and was then mobilised to India. The PGS 3D vessel *Nordic Explorer* recorded data in the Perth Basin for Roc. And was also then mobilised out of Australia.

BSOC continued to monitor 3D seismic vessel availability in relation to the acquisition of 3D in Vic/P41 throughout the quarter, although no further vessel activity in SE Australia was noted. It is anticipated that the 2004 Otway operations season (i.e. October – December) will provide the next opportunity to share mobilisation of a 3D vessel into the Bass Strait area.

#### **3.2 Scorpion 2D Seismic Survey/Reprocessing**

The Scorpion survey line GEBR01-23 is being reprocessed by Robertson Research for Santos, under agreement with BSOC and the Vic/P41 Joint Venture.

At quarter's end SANTOS reported the preliminary results were a definite improvement on the original. Final processing results were expected in March.

### **4. REPORTS SUBMITTED**

At the presentation of 4<sup>th</sup> February, the technical evaluation work undertaken by BSOC on Vic/P41, including montages and reports, was presented to the DPI on CD ROM.

### **5. HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT**

#### **5.1 Incidents**

There were no health, safety or environmental incidents recorded during the report period.

#### **5.2 Environmental Approvals**

There were no environmental issues submitted for approval during the report period by BSOC.

**6. ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR THE QUARTER**

Estimated expenditure for the reporting period is detailed below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$000's)</b>
Drilling	NIL
Permit Administration	50
Seismic (Reprocessing)	10
Geological & Geophysical	70
Seismic (Acquisition)	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>