

Australia/Asia Exploration
Petroleum



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bhpbilliton.com

14th May, 2007

Manager, Petroleum Regulations,
Petroleum and Pipeline Approvals, Operations and Environment,
Department of Primary Industries.
Level 16, 1 Spring Street,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

Attn: Mr Terry McKinley

Dear Sir,

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
OTWAY VIC/RL7 HOT07A MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY
VIC/RL7

Please find enclosed our application for approval to conduct the HOT07A VIC/RL7 Marine Seismic Survey in the Offshore Otway Basin. BHPP are finalising an Agency agreement with Santos Ltd to acquire this survey on our behalf following the completion of recording of their VIC/P44 OTSN07 3D MSS that is currently being acquired using the MV Western Trident.

The most likely survey design comprises a 2D seismic program over the western flank of the La Bella gas discovery. However, the VIC/RL7 Joint Venture is also considering a 3D seismic option, which would provide superior data quality over the entire La Bella field, and would also assist in defining the exploration potential of the western portion of the retention lease. As final decision on 2D vs 3D will be made by the end of May, approval is requested to proceed with either the 2D or 3D seismic option.

Due to the location and timing of the survey, and therefore possible interactions with cetaceans, BHPP have submitted a referral to DEWR under the EPBC act. Based on the current vessel schedule, we plan to commence acquisition around mid June 2007. The 2D survey would be acquired in approximately 1 day, or around 8 days for the 3D seismic option.

Santos' Environment Plan, WesternGeco's QHSE Plan and the Santos/WesternGeco Bridging document will cover this survey and are included, however it should be noted that these documents may be subject to change as consultations with organisations such as yourselves and the fishing industry are continuing and we will update these documents as required.

Depending on the acquisition option selected, sail lines may extend into VIC/P43, VIC/P44 & VIC/P61 as indicated on the included maps. Operators of these licenses have been contacted to obtain access approval to their acreage. Santos anticipates obtaining their approval shortly. An Application for Access Authority for these areas is included with this application.

A member of the BHP Billiton group
which is headquartered in Australia
Registered Office: 180 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
ABN 97 006 918 832
Registered in Australia

Manager Petroleum Regulation,
Minerals and Petroleum Regulation Unit,
Level 16, 1 Spring Street,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO CONDUCT A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY (Offshore)

1. Tenement Number

VIC/RL7

2. Titleholder (Operator)

Company

BHP Billiton Petroleum Pty Ltd

Phone

08 9338 4680

Fax

08 9338 4900

Postal Address

Central Park, 1520158 St Georges Terrace

Suburb

Perth

State

WA

Postcode

6000

3. Contact person regarding this application

Name

Karl Bauer

Position Held

Region Manager Perth

Phone

08 9338 4680

Fax

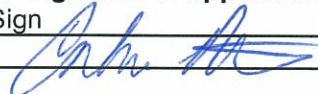
08 9338 4900

E-mail

Karl.H.Bauer@bhpbilliton.com

4. Signature of applicant or agent (*Agent should demonstrate proof of authority*)

Sign



Date

14/5/2007

5. Details of survey

Survey Name

HOT07A MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY

Application for Access Authority

YES

Prime Survey

2D OR 3D SEISMIC

Secondary Survey

NONE

Technique

AIRGUN

Energy source

3147 Cu. In. Bolt Air guns

Proposed Line km or km²

30 km (143 km² in the event of 3D)

Estimated cost (\$A)

\$400,000 (\$5,000,000 in the event of 3D)

Scheduled commencement date

Mid June 2007

Estimated duration

1 day (8 days in the event of 3D)

Object of survey (attach statement if insufficient space)

To define the western extent & resource potential of the La Bella Gas Field. A 3D seismic option may also be pursued, which would also aid in determining the exploration potential of the western portion of the VIC/RL7 retention lease.

6. Contractor

Company

WESTERNGECO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

Postal Address

LEVEL 5, 256 ST GEORGE TERRACE
PERTH

State

WA

Postcode

6000

Phone

08 9420 4618

Fax

09 9420 4600

Name of vessel

M/V WESTERN TRIDENT

Port from which the vessel will operate

PORTLAND

Navigational system

DGPS

Technical details of vessel attached

(if not previously supplied)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) ACT 1967

APPLICATION FOR ACCESS AUTHORITY (Section 112)

Name of applicant BHPBILLITON PETROLEUM PTY LTD

of CENTRAL PARK, 152-158 ST GEORGES TERRACE, PERTH

being the (permittee, lessee, licensee or holder of a Special Prospecting Authority (SPA))

PERMITTEE of Exploration Permit/Production Licence/SPA No. VIC/RL7

situated in the area specified as being adjacent to the State of **VICTORIA** or holder of a State title,
SPA hereby apply for an ACCESS AUTHORITY in respect of Blocks Nos. tabled below:

Applicants Permit/ SPA Licence No. from:	Permit/Licence No. Vacant Area to:	Registered Holders Name	Map Sheet Block No. (s)
VIC/RL7	VIC/P43	WOODSIDE ENERGY LTD	SJ-54 Hamilton: 2578 2650
VIC/RL7	VIC/P44	SANTOS LTD	SJ-54 Hamilton: 2503 2504 2505
VIC/RL7	VIC/P61	EXOIL LTD	SJ-54 Hamilton: 2575 2648

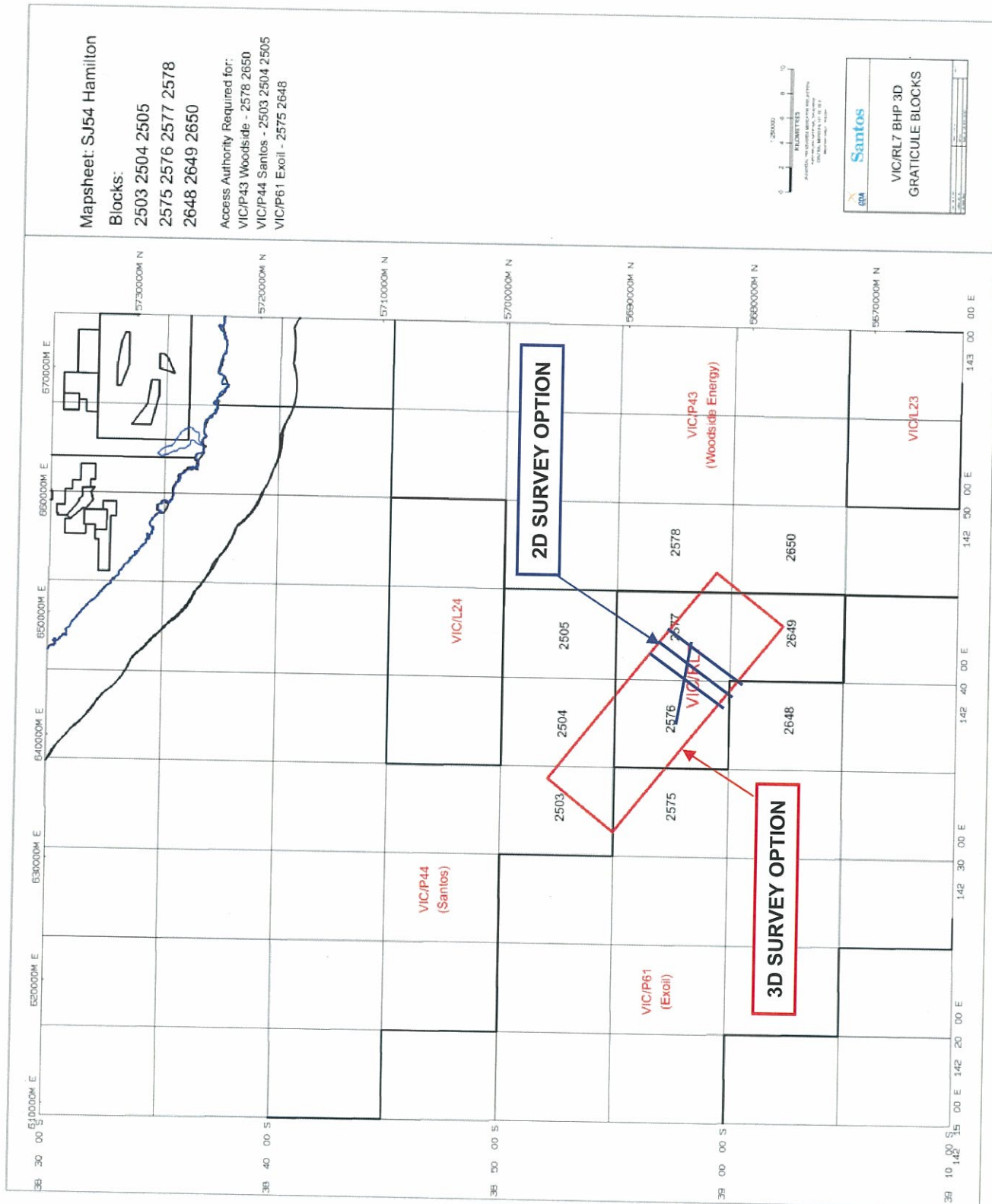
This application is made in conjunction with the accompanying application for permission to conduct the HOT07A VIC/RL7 geophysical survey which contains maps showing the proposed seismic lines and other relevant information.

Dated at Perth this 14th day of May 2007.

MADE UNDER THE PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) ACT 1967

Signed: 
APPLICANT

To: Manager Petroleum Regulation,
 Minerals and Petroleum Regulation Unit,
 Level 16, 1 Spring Street,
 Melbourne, Victoria, 3000



Enclosure ii(i): Graticule Block Map

