Form 3: Initial environmental assessment and sensitive environments contingency plan

Regulation 11(c), Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects–Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013

How to use this form:

This form should be completed by organisations planning to carry out marine scientific research, prospecting, or exploration. It fulfills the initial environmental assessment and contingency plan requirements of Schedule 2 of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013.

This form must be provided to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) at least 5 working days before commencing the activity.

Note: Items marked in italics are non-compulsory fields; however, inclusion of this information will assist the EPA in processing this form.

Please note that this completed form, once received and processed by EPA, will be posted on the EPA website.

Submitting in hard copy:

If you wish to provide this form in hard copy, please post your completed form to: Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Wellington, 6140.

Submitting electronically:

If you wish to provide this form electronically, please email your form to: eez.compliance@epa.govt.nz

Any form submitted electronically should be attached to an email that sets out:

- The details of the person undertaking the permitted activity (the operator);
- The name of the person supplying the completed form; and
- A statement that the person is authorised to supply the form on behalf of the operator.

Note: there is an 8 MB limit on electronic files submitted via email.

All forms prescribed by the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013, as well as suggested templates for providing other information, may be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.epa.govt.nz or requested by contacting us:

Private Bag 63002, Wellington, 6140
Email info@epa.govt.nz

Ph +64 4 916 2426
Fax +64 4 914 0433

www.epa.govt.nz
**Operation name:**
Name used by operator to reference the activity described in this form:

**Details of person undertaking permitted activity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company name:</th>
<th>[Redacted]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact person:</td>
<td>[Redacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number:</td>
<td>[Redacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile number:</td>
<td>[Redacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical address:</td>
<td>[Redacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal address (if different):</td>
<td>[Redacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email address:</td>
<td>[Redacted]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General description of permitted activity**

**Type of activity:**
Post-drill benthic surveys and epibenthic video sled recording as set out in the Discharge Management Plans for the Oi-1 and Oi-2 wells.

**Description of methods to be used to undertake the activity:**
Benthic sampling with van Veen grab at existing monitoring sites at the Oi-1 and Oi-2 wellhead locations and at N-S and W-E transects up to 4,000 m from the Oi-2 wellhead location. The northern and southern control sites will also be sampled which are distant to the Oi-1 and Oi-2 locations.

Epibenthic video recording of seabed conditions will take place at eight representative stations around the Oi-1 and Oi-2 wellhead locations as well as at four locations at the north and south control stations.

The location of the sample stations to be monitored are shown in Figure 1 attached. The epibenthic video tows will pass through the Oi-1 WH, S100, Oi-2 WH, N500, N250, S250 and S100 monitoring stations indicated in Figure 1.


**Location of permitted activity**

**Co-ordinates of area where activity will be undertaken:**

(latitude and longitude)

| Within 4000m of Oi-2 wellhead location at general coordinates as follows: |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| WGS 1984 |

Northern Control site is approximately 13 km southeast of the Oi-2 wellhead location at general coordinates as follows:

| Latitude: 39°25.359 Longitude: 173°27.235 (WGS 84) |

Southern Control site is approximately 51 km south-southwest of the Oi-2 wellhead location at general coordinates as follows:

Description of the current state of the area and the surrounding environment, including any known sensitive environments:

Based on previous benthic surveys and epibenthic video footage at the OI-1 and OI-2 locations, the benthic environment at all survey locations comprises homogenous soft mud actively swept by currents, with no hard substrate or large biogenic structures. No sensitive species or habitats have been identified in or around the sampling area.

Description of the likely effects of the activity on the environment:

Minor short-lived disturbance of seabed and associated benthic communities from van Veen grab sampling tool (approximately 0.6 m² seabed disturbed and 0.06 m² substrate removed at each monitoring site) and epibenthic video-sled deployment.

Identification of sensitive environments

Describe any sensitive environments likely to exist in the area where the activity will be undertaken:

Based on information from previous pre-drill benthic and epibenthic video sampling, there are no known sensitive environments in the areas in which the activities are to be undertaken.
**Contingency plan**

Specify measures that could be taken to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of the activity on sensitive environments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Can the activity be undertaken in another place?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Explain: The locations for the Oi-1 and Oi-2 benthic surveys and video sled recording are set out in the Discharge Management Plans for these sites approved by Maritime New Zealand and are based on the likely deposition of drill cuttings from the Oi-1 and Oi-2 drilling programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Can the activity be undertaken in a way that reduces the amount of contact with the seabed?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Explain: The Oi-1 and Oi-2 benthic surveys and epibenthic video sled recording methodology is set out in OTEMP and the Discharge Management Plans for these sites approved by Maritime New Zealand. The van veen grab samples are required to collect the necessary samples to adhere to the requirements in the Discharge Management Plan. The use of the video sled is a non-invasive methodology to gain qualitative video footage to assess epibenthic species and communities on the seabed at radiating distances from the wellhead locations as opposed to alternative methods (i.e. dredge tows). As discussed below, a reduced benthic survey and epibenthic video sled recording proposal has been accepted by Maritime New Zealand for the Post drilling monitoring (which included Oi-1, Oi-2 and Pateke-4H) that will reduce the seabed and epibenthic sampling required, resulting in a reduction in contact with the seabed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Can different methods be used in undertaking the activity to lessen its effects on the sensitive environment?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Explain: The current method is approved by Maritime NZ and is a requirement in the Discharge Management Plan. The number of sites which are sampled has been reduced as described above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Can the activity be undertaken in a way that lessens its effects in the sensitive environment?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Explain: As outlined above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Select one*

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**Signature of authorised contact person**

Name: [Redacted]  
Title: [Redacted]

**Date:** [Redacted]

*Note: A signature is not required for electronic (email) forms.*