

# PTTEP Australasia Montara Operations EP Revision

Fact Sheet



November 2017



PTTEP Australasia (Ashmore Cartier) Pty Ltd (PTTEP AA) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PTTEP, the Thai national petroleum exploration and production company. PTTEP AA's Montara Project is located offshore in the Timor Sea approximately 690 km west of Darwin. PTTEP AA has recently revised the Montara Operations Environment Plan (EP). This factsheet provides an overview of the revisions that have been made to the EP.

## Montara Operations

The Montara Project is located in Commonwealth waters within Production Licences AC/L7 and AC/L8 in the Timor Sea. Montara is located in a water depth of approximately 77 m (LAT).

Oil is currently being extracted from production wells and transported in flow lines via the Montara Wellhead Platform to the Montara Venture Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel.

The Montara Project includes five subsea wells, an unmanned Wellhead Platform, and a FPSO.

Production commenced in Quarter 2 of 2013. The project is expected to have a life of approximately 12 years.



Site location of the Montara Project.

## Outcomes of the Montara Operations Inspection

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) conducted an inspection of PTTEP AA's facilities in March 2017.

On 21 June 2017, NOPSEMA issued PTTEP AA with an improvement notice (ID number 663) relating to environmental management of its Montara Project. The improvement notice required PTTEP AA to increase its capacity to coordinate and manage oil spill response arrangements. PTTEP AA was given 90 days to respond to the improvement notice.

In addition, NOPSEMA requested PTTEP AA to revise and resubmit the Montara Operations EP. The EP has been updated to address the key inspection findings and align with industry good practice.

Further information on the updated items is provided over the page.

On 15 September 2017, PTTEP AA confirmed to NOPSEMA that the organisation had complied with the improvement notice.

On 16 October 2017, NOPSEMA performed another inspection of PTTEP AA's office and verified that all actions required by the improvement notice 633 have been completed.

## Montara Operations EP Revision

The following sections outlines the key revision that PTTEP AA has made to the Montara Operations EP.

The full timeline of events is provided on the next page.

### Oil Spill Modelling

PTTEP AA revisited the spill risk profile for a potential full loss of well control at the Montara Field while planning for the Montara Production Drilling of well H5. PTTEP AA commissioned a second spill model in 2017 to reflect the potential worst-case release from the Montara Field.

The updated spill modelling has been used as the basis to conservatively determine the environment that may be affected by the Montara Project, and has been incorporated into this revision of the EP.

PTTEP AA has updated the potential loss of well control scenario to align with good practice and to reflect up-to-date industry guidance. As a result, the description of the existing environment was updated to reflect the new outer geographic extent of the environment that may be affected by the Montara Project during an emergency.

### Flaring

Throughout the Montara Project lifecycle, the total flaring volumes are expected to increase due to changes in reservoir characteristics.

PTTEP AA has re-evaluated the environmental risks associated with flaring. A secondary flow-line has been commissioned, which is expected to increase production reliability and subsequently reduce the flaring volumes.

Following the re-evaluation, flaring controls were updated and continue to align with industry good practice. Flaring is minimised through the use of produced gas as fuel gas, gas lift or re-injection into the gas injection well. In the event of gas compressor system unavailability due to planned maintenance or breakdowns, gas is conserved while maintaining a safe and stable operation.

The combustion of fuels in such a remote locality will not impact sensitive environments, as offshore winds will rapidly disperse and dilute any gaseous emissions.

## Produced Formation Water

As the reservoir ages, the water content is increasing. Accordingly, produced formation water (PFW) volumes are predicted to also increase with the commissioning of the second flowline, and the planned increases in production.

The PFW environmental risks have been re-evaluated based on these operational changes and an analysis of PFW monitoring information obtained since operations began in 2013.

PTTEP AA has modified some of the control measures for routine discharges of treated PFW and the controls continue to align with industry good practice.

All PFW is passed through the PFW treatment system prior to discharge. Bilge and slops water is also directed to the PFW tanks for treatment and discharge with the PFW.

The impact of treated water discharge during operations (including maintenance activities) continues to be negligible due to the low volumes discharged, absence of sensitive receptors in close proximity to Montara Operations and the rapid dilution in the receiving environment.

### Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

The purpose of the Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) is to detail the procedures in place that will help to minimise the effect of an unplanned release of petroleum products or petroleum based chemicals. The OPEP also outlines the resources available to implement the response procedures.

PTTEP AA has put in place training for external support personnel to supplement PTTEP AA's existing oil spill response capacity. These measures have been incorporated into the updated Montara Operations OPEP. The OPEP was also updated to align with the revised spill volumes, as discussed above.



A Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit at the Montara Wellhead Platform.

## Timeline of Montara Operations Revision

### March 2017

NOPSEMA conducted an inspection of PTTEP AA's operations.

### 21 - 22 June 2017

NOPSEMA issued PTTEP AA with an improvement notice and requested a resubmission of the EP.

### 15 September 2017

PTTEP AA confirmed to NOPSEMA that the organisation had complied with the improvement notice.

### 20 September 2017

PTTEP AA submitted a revised Montara Operations EP to NOPSEMA.

### 16 October 2017

NOPSEMA performed another inspection of PTTEP AA's operations and verified that all actions required by the improvement notice have been completed.

### 20 October 2017

NOPSEMA issued PTTEP AA with a request for further written information on the EP.

### November 2017

PTTEP AA is in the process of addressing the request for further written information.

### Quarter 1 2018

PTTEP AA intends to submit a complete revision of the EP in early 2018 (the five year revision).

## Overview of PTTEP AA Activities

In addition to the Montara Operations EP Revision, PTTEP AA is working on three other key activities:

- Montara Production Drilling EP: The EP was accepted by NOPSEMA in late-August 2017. Drilling commenced in early-September 2017 and concluded in late-October 2017. The EP Summary is available on NOPSEMA's website.
- Montara Operations EP 5 Year Review: NOPSEMA requires all EPs to be reviewed and updated every 5 years. PTTEP AA is conducting a complete review of the Montara Operations EP in line with NOPSEMA's requirements, and intends to submit the revised EP to NOPSEMA in early-2018.
- Cash Maple Offshore Project Proposal (OPP): PTTEP AA is currently in the early stages of preparing an OPP for the Cash Maple gas field. The proposed project is located within Commonwealth waters, approximately 680 km west of Darwin, 700 km northeast of Broome and 200 km southeast of the Indonesian coastline.

## Contact Us

If you would like further information, have any queries, or if you wish to provide feedback, please do not hesitate to contact PTTEP AA.

PTTEP Australasia

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