



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Posted 30/11

Mr Ralph McIver  
General Manager – Exploration and  
Stage 2 EIS Coordinator  
Southern Pacific Petroleum NL  
PO Box 7101  
Riverside Centre  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr McIver

**Stuart Shale Oil Proposed Stage Two Expansion: Submission of Consolidated Report**

As you are aware, the proposed stage two expansion of the Stuart Shale Oil project in Gladstone is undergoing assessment in terms of the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* (EPIP Act). In terms of this process there are still some matters for which we await information before we can commence the assessment phase. These matters have been detailed in various pieces of correspondence from this Department over the past two years. The 42 day assessment period will not commence until all the information is received.

We have been provided with a copy of the 'Consolidated Report' produced by SPP and presented to the Queensland Department of State Development towards the end of 2003. We have assumed that the Consolidated Report constitutes additional information (to the final environmental impact statement) for consideration in terms of the EPIP Act. The document is being examined as if it had been formally submitted to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, or to this Department on his behalf, as required under the EPIP Act.

While our examination of the Consolidated Report is not yet complete, it is clear that there are areas where we believe further information needs to be provided to meet our requests for additional information. I will advise you as soon possible on the outstanding areas once we have had the opportunity to examine the consolidated report in detail.

In the interim, I would be grateful if you could formally advise whether the 'Consolidated Report' provided to the Queensland Government is, in the view of SPP, the additional information requested by the Commonwealth Government under the EPIP Act.

I look forward to your reply. I have copied this letter to the Receiver, Queensland EPA and Queensland Department of State Development.

Malcolm Forbes  
Assistant Secretary  
Environment Assessment and Approvals Branch

30 January 2004

cc Queensland Department of State Development  
cc Queensland EPA  
cc Ernst and Young



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Dear Mr McIver

I refer to your letter of 1 August 2003 in which you seek confirmation that there are three remaining issues, for which the Commonwealth awaits full information before commencing the formal assessment of the Stuart Oil Shale Stage 2 Project. These relate to dioxins, the health effects of hydrocarbons and Greenhouse gas. I confirm that this is the case.

In relation to the issue of dioxins, I understand that Mr D Cook of the Department of State Development has responded (in a letter signed on 15 August 2003) on behalf of the Commonwealth with respect to the further program of test work required.

It should be noted that although sufficient information has been provided to undertake assessment of the Stuart Stage 2 Project in respect of other issues, it does not follow that this Department agrees with the position or conclusions of every aspect of the environment assessment documentation provided.

Thank you for the information provided in relation to the timing of the completion of the independent Health Risk Assessment. On the matter of the relevant project manager in the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), I understand that Tim Kahn of this office has forwarded the contact details of Mr Chris Baker, Technical advisor, Energy Futures Branch of the AGO.

I trust that this clarifies the situation with regard to the remaining outstanding information.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Early  
First Assistant Secretary  
Approvals and Wildlife Division

25 August 2003

cc Queensland Department of State Development  
cc Queensland EPA

