

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

1 June 2010

Question: BR1
Topic: Disposal Of The West Atlas Rig
Proof Hansard Page: E27-E28

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—Can I quickly move on to the issue of the disposal of the West Atlas rig, which was destroyed in the fire. What is the normal process for dealing with that? What is the process that is going to be undertaken for that particular rig?

Mr Hartwell—Basically that is an ongoing process. Essentially, PTTEP are seeking the appropriate regulatory approvals to dispose of the rig, including from NOPSA as the safety authority, and that process is going forward.

Senator SIEWERT—What is the time line for that? Why is it PTTEP rather than Seadrill, because the West Atlas rig is not owned by PTTEP.

Mr Hartwell—The PTTEP had contracted Seadrill. They have taken responsibility for that and, as I said to you, it is a process going forward.

Senator SIEWERT—When will that be completed? Where is it likely to be—

Mr Hartwell—Timing is uncertain, but certainly they are trying to do that as quickly as possible, obviously.

Senator SIEWERT—Sorry, I am not trying to be provocative. Is it within the next six months? Is it within the next two months?

Mr Hartwell—I would have to take that on notice. My advice is that it would be in the next six to 12 months.

Senator SIEWERT—Can you tell me where they are applying to dispose of it?

Mr Hartwell—I cannot answer that question at this stage.

Senator SIEWERT—You cannot because you do not know or because—

Mr Hartwell—We have not been informed.

Senator SIEWERT—Who would I ask to find out that information?

Mr Hartwell—We can take that on notice and be in contact with PTTEP. They are yet to submit their final plans on that.

Senator SIEWERT—Thank you for that.

Answer:

The removal of the remains of West Atlas drill rig is due to be completed before the cyclone season commences in November 2010, with the intention of removing the remains for salvage in Singapore.