



Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000

Production Licence

Guidelines for payment of royalty and provision of information

1. Payment of Royalty

The Licensee shall pay royalty in respect of all regulated substance (substance) recovered from a Production Licence other than a substance described in Section 43(3)(a) of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Act 2000* (the "Act").

2. Calculation of Royalty

The Licensee shall pay royalty at a rate of ten (10) percentum of the value at the wellhead of the substance which shall be an amount calculated by taking the amount that could reasonably be realised on sale of the substance to a genuine purchaser at arms length from the Producer (excluding any Goods and Services Tax (GST) component) ("arms length sales value") (as defined in clause (3)(a)(i)) and subtracting therefrom all reasonable expenses reasonably incurred by the Producer (all excluding any GST component) in treating, processing or refining the substance prior to delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser, which expenses shall be the following sums:

- (a) a sum calculated by writing off on a straight line basis together with interest on the written down value at the rate provided in clause (3)(c), over a period of ten (10) years commencing from the month the expense was incurred (or such lesser period as may be determined as being the life of the field) the actual capital expenses incurred by the Producer in respect of all plant used for the purposes of treating, processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery (but not upstream of the wellhead) or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser provided however that if any item of such plant is sold prior to being fully depreciated, the amount obtained upon such sale shall be deducted from the written down value of such item for the purposes of calculating the deduction, but not so as to reduce the written down value below zero;
- (b) a sum being expenses actually incurred by the Producer in respect of persons not employed on site by the Producer but whose employment functions directly relate to relevant treating, processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery (but not upstream of the wellhead) or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser;
- (c) a sum being expenses (other than expenses upstream of the wellhead) actually incurred by the Producer or some one or more of them in respect of operating costs related to treating, processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser, including but not limited to the amount of any licence fees payable in respect of any production licence, associated facilities licence or pipeline licence, provided however that:
 - (i) the amount of such deduction will be reduced by the amount obtained upon the sale of any item of plant which has not been depreciated or which has been fully depreciated, but not so as to reduce the deduction below zero,
 - (ii) if any such expenses are incurred pursuant to any agreement which is not bona fide or arms length, such expenses (or part thereof) shall not be deducted, and



- (iii) any expenses allowed as a deduction under clause 2(c) shall not include any expenditure provided for in clause (2)(a) or (2)(b) or (2)(d),
- (d) a sum being expenses (other than expenses upstream of the wellhead) actually incurred by the Producer pursuant to a bona fide arms length agreement to lease any plant used for the purposes of treating, processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser.
- (e) a sum being the actual expenses (other than expenses upstream of the wellhead) incurred by the Producer in rehabilitating the ground surface and site of plant and the actual expenses incurred in dismantling, removing or abandoning of such plant less any salvage obtained thereon where such plant is used for the purposes of treating processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser and the actual expenses incurred in rehabilitating the ground surface and site of a well of the type described in clause (3)(b) and the actual expenses incurred in abandoning such well but not including any costs incurred as a result of the loss of control of any well.

3. Further provisions regarding calculation of Royalty

- (a) For the purposes of clause (2):-
 - (i) in each month the arms length sales value of the substance means the value of the actual sales in respect of the substance described in clause (1) in that month provided however that if any substance is not supplied to a bona fide arms length purchaser, not sold for full market value, or returned to a natural reservoir for later production, destroyed, dissipated or used by the Producer not in accordance with Section 43(3) of the Act, the gross sales value of such substance shall be the amount which would have been received in respect of such substance from a bona fide arms length purchaser for full market value;
 - (ii) the term “plant” includes but is not limited to:
 - (A) any machinery, equipment, vehicle, implement, tool, article, vessel, pit, building, structure, improvement or other such property used in, or in connection with, treating processing or refining of the substance prior to the delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser; or
 - (B) any pipeline;and
 - (iii) “wellhead” means the casing head and includes any casing hanger or spool, or tubing hanger, and any flow control equipment up to and including the wing valves.

(b) Non Producing Wells

The capital expenditure referred to in clause (2)(a) may include the actual capital expenditure incurred by the Producer in respect of wells used solely for the purpose of assisting or enhancing the recovery of the substance from other wells or for the purposes of storing the substance or for the recovery or disposal of water used in connection with treating processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery or for any similar purpose other than the production of the substance and may also include the actual capital expenditure incurred by the Producer in converting a well used for the production of the substance to a well used for such other purposes.

(c) Interest Rate



For the purpose of clause (2)(a) the interest rate shall be one half of the long term Australian Government Bond Rate for bonds of a 10 year term as published at the end of the month in which the capital expenditure was made. If no such rate is in existence or published at the end of such period then the interest rate for the purposes of clause (2)(a) shall be one half of the average of the long term Australian Government Bond Rate for bonds of a 10 year term prevailing during the period of 5 years preceding the date on which such rate ceased to exist or be published.

(d) Apportionment of Expenses

Where an item of plant is used partly for the purposes of treating, processing or refining of the substance prior to delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser, and partly for some other purpose, the amount of the deduction (whether for capital or operating expenditure) which shall be allowed shall not include the proportion of the actual capital or operating expenditure applicable to that other purpose.

(e) Sale of Plant

Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (2), if an item of plant is sold by a Producer (“the first Producer”) to another Producer, or to a company that becomes a successor or assign of the first Producer (“the second Producer”), the second Producer may only depreciate the plant to the extent to which the first Producer was, immediately before the time of sale, entitled to depreciate the plant.

(f) Take or Pay

For the purposes of this clause and of calculating the gross sales value of the substance, where the Producer enters into an agreement commonly known as a take or pay agreement, any payment received by the Producer in respect of petroleum which has been paid for but not been taken shall be treated as part of the gross sales value of the substance at the time of receipt of payment by such Producer and not at any other time.

(g) Tolling

- i. If the Producer receives any revenue from the use of any plant downstream of the wellhead used for treating processing or refining the substance sourced from anywhere within the area from time to time comprised in Exploration Licence ... or any Production Licence issued from an area which was comprised in Exploration Licence ... immediately prior to the time such Production Licence was issued, or in transporting such substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser such revenue shall be deemed to be part of the bona fide sales value of the substance to the intent that royalty shall be payable thereon.
- ii. Any sums, being sums deemed under clause (3)(g)(i) to be part of the bona fide value of the substances, paid by the Producer in respect of the use of such plant for treating processing or refining such substance or in transporting such substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser shall be deemed to be an expense under clause (2)(c).
- iii. If any such plant is used for treating processing or refining of the substance sourced from outside of the areas referred to in clause (3)(g)(i) or in transporting such substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser any amounts which may be claimed as deductions under this clause (whether such deductions be by way of operating expenditure or capital expenditure) in respect of such plant shall be reduced by the proportion which would be obtained by the method of apportioning costs used by the Producer to ascertain the tolling fee, but any revenue received



by the Producer for the use of such plant for the treating, processing or refining of such substance prior to delivery or in transporting the substance to the point of delivery to the purchaser shall not be deemed to part of the gross sales value of the substance.

4. Royalty returns

- a) Not later than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of each calendar month the Licensee will calculate and notify to the Minister the royalty, calculated by taking the bona fide sales value of the substance sold in that month, and deducting therefrom the most recent estimated monthly expenditure provided under clause (4)(c), payable by each Licensee. The Licensee shall with each such notification provide the Minister with a statement, in a form approved by the Minister, advising of the quantity of the substance sold and the amount realised upon such sale during the last preceding month, together with such other information as the Minister may require.
- b) The Licensees shall not later than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of each calendar month pay to the Minister the amount of royalty specified in the notice referred to in clause (4)(a) as payable.
- c) On or before each 15th March (in respect of the next succeeding twelve (12) month period commencing 1st July), the Licensee shall bona fide estimate the sales volume of the substance, the sales value of the substance, the allowable deductions apportioned between capital and operational deductions and hence calculate the estimated royalty payable for the next succeeding twelve (12) month period and shall provide the Minister with such estimates, together with the apportionment thereof on a monthly basis. A review of such forecast will be required if significant change to the forecast is evident. The Licensee will be required to provide a bona fide forecast as necessary for up to a period of 5 financial years including detail as referred to above but excluding a monthly apportionment for all but the proceeding twelve (12) month period.
- d) By the 30th of September each year, the Licensee shall reconcile all calculations of royalties for the most recent financial year ended 30 June and shall provide the Minister with copies of such reconciliations (Annual Reconciliation). Any expenses allowed as a deduction under clause (2)(b) to clause (2)(e) inclusive shall not be carried forward for a period of greater than 12 months from the month of expenditure.
- e) The Licensee shall incorporate any additional royalty or offset any overpayment of royalty calculated in accordance with the Annual Reconciliation referred to in clause 4(d) in the royalty payment relating to the August royalty return, due to be lodged and paid on the 30th of September.
- f) The Licensee shall at its cost cause the Annual Reconciliations submitted by the Licensee (and records pertaining to them) to be audited by an independent auditor duly registered in Australia. In conducting the audit, the auditor should have regard to the royalty calculation requirements in the Act and this Guideline. The Licensee shall forward a copy of the auditor's report in respect of a particular Annual Reconciliation to the Minister by the 30th of November of the relevant year.
- g) The Minister shall in accordance with Section 43(8) of the Act assess the value at the wellhead of the substance produced by the Licensees and may require the Licensee to pay within 30 days of the date of notice of such assessment the additional royalty determined by the Minister as payable.



For further information, please contact:

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