

**Environmental Impact Classification
Pursuant to Section 98 of the *Petroleum Act 2000***

Pipeline Licences 3&4 – South East Pipeline System, South Australia

22 June 2004

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to section 98 of the *Petroleum Act 2000* (the Act) the Minister must classify the regulated activities covered by a prepared Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as either low, medium or high impact

The classification must be made on the basis of:

- The prepared Environmental Impact Report (EIR);
- Criteria established for classifying the level of environmental impact of regulated activities, a copy of which is found on the PIRSA Petroleum Group web page: (<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/dhtml/ss/section.php?sectID=437&templD=8>); and
- Comment received from Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), Planning SA and Department for Water Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) in accord with established administrative arrangements between these respective departments and PIRSA.

This document summarises the classification made by PIRSA on the South East Pipeline System (PLs3&4). This classification is based on the information provided in the EIR and draft Statement of Environmental Objectives (SEO) both dated February 2004, as submitted to PIRSA by Epic Energy, on 3 March 2004.

SUMMARY OF CLASSIFICATION

- 1) From an analysis of the environmental significance of the various potential impacts associated with this operation against the classification criteria (see Attachment 1) this regulated activity has been classified as being of **low environmental impact**.
- 2) Planning SA considered this classification to be appropriate.
- 3) DWLBC made no comments on this classification.
- 4) DEH made no specific comments on the environmental classification due to its similarity to previously approved pipeline operation projects (for example the Moomba to Adelaide Pipeline).

Therefore pursuant to delegated powers dated 28 March 2002 and Gazetted 11 April 2002, I hereby classify this regulated activity as low impact.



**Terry Aust
A/DIRECTOR PETROLEUM
MINERALS AND ENERGY
Delegate to the Minister for Mineral Resources Development**

PROJECT: PIPELINE LICENCE 3&4																		
ACTIVITY: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE																		
PIRSA FILE: SR 28/1/158																		
ASSESSOR: ANGELA CRIMES/BELINDA CLOSE																		
Date: May 2003/APRIL 2004																		
REF	PIPELINE ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL EVENT/IMPACT	POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES	PREDICTABILITY						MANAGEABILITY						COMMENTS	ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE	
				SIZE	SCOPE	DURATION	FREQUENCY	STAKEHOLDERS	SIGNIFICANCE	AVOIDANCE	PROBABILITY	DURATION	SIZE AND SCOPE	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS	STAKEHOLDERS			SIGNIFICANCE
4.1., Appendix B (no. 1)	Line-of-sight	Vegetation control along ROW	Removal of remnant vegetation	H	H	H	H	H	1	Yes							Requirement to remove vegetation to just above root level on the ROW to maintain the line of sight of pipeline markers. Trees are trimmed rather than cleared where possible. Not expected to impact on any remnant vegetation as this is undertaken within 2m of the pipeline.	Low
4.4, Appendix B (no. 2)	Patrolling / inspections (easement access). Maintenance work.	Introduction of weeds.	Spread of weeds into remnant vegetation. Loss of vegetation through competition with weed infestations.	H	M	M	M	H	2	No	Med	Med	Confin ed				3 The spread of weeds along the ROW is an issue for inspection activities. Tends to be related to land use and rainfall patterns. Areas of known infestation have been identified and marked. Management measures include targeted eradication, vehicle washdown.	Low
4.4, Appendix B (no. 17)	Weed control.	Spraying of weeds along ROW.	Loss of remnant vegetation adjacent to weed spray areas.	M	H	H	H	H	2	No	Med	Short					2 Weed species of concern is targeted. Minor temporary impact to non-target species may occur within the immediate vicinity.	Low
4.1, 4.10.2, Appendix B (no 11)	Welding for pipeline repair (usually following excavation).	Fire caused by welding activities	Loss of remnant vegetation	M	L	M	H	H	4	Yes							1 The possibility of a fire resulting from welding activities is minimised through appropriate maintenance control measures for safe work practices..	Low
		Fauna																
4.2, Appendix B (no. 8)	Excavation work.	Unscheduled maintenance work requiring vegetation clearance.	Loss of habitat.	H	M	M	M	H	2	No	Med	Med	Confin ed				3 As the work is to be undertaken within the easement it is likely that any habitat clearance will be in previously disturbed areas and over a confined area. To minimise disturbance the activities will be undertaken in the shortest possible time to facilitate rehabilitation, and land contours/features will be re-established to maintain habitats/niches consistent with the surrounding environment.	Low
4.2, Appendix B (no. 8)	Excavation work.	Faunal entrapment during excavation work.	Injury or loss of native fauna and/or stock.	H	M	H	M	H	2	No	Low						1 There is the possibility that native fauna will become entrapped during excavation work. These sites are fenced to prevent stock access. Measures such as escape ramps are used to assist fauna escape from trenches and the trenches will be open for the minimum possible time.	Low
4.2, Appendix B (no. 2)	Patrolling / inspections (easement access).	Vehicle impact with fauna during inspection activities.	Injury or loss of native fauna.	H	H	H	M	H	2	No	Med	Short					2 Vehicle impacts are possible during the lifetime of pipeline operation and could occur whenever a vehicle passes along the ROW. The likelihood is reduced by vehicles being restricted to designated access tracks and the ROW.	Low
4.2, Appendix B (no. 2, 3, 8)	Pipeline operation.	Faunal disturbance during inspection and maintenance activities	General disruption to fauna. Disruption to faunal breeding activities	M	H	H	M	H	2	No	High	Short					2 In the lifetime of the pipeline's operation it is likely that activities will disturb localised fauna. All activities will be undertaken over a relatively short period of time, which will minimise disturbance.	Low
		SENSITIVE AREAS																
		National Parks/Reserves																
3, 4.6		None	None														No impacts are expected to conservation areas other than those addressed under soil, flora and fauna impacts. The pipeline traverses the Wandilo and Glencoe Hill Native Forest Reserves. Forestry SA will be contacted regarding protection of assets in these reserves prior to commencing work.	
		SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT																
		Heritage																
4.9, Appendix B (no 3, 8, 14)	Easement maintenance. Excavation work. Replacement of pipeline section.	Operation and maintenance work on uncleared heritage sites. Work undertaken on previously identified sites without clearance..	Damage to or loss of sites or artefacts of cultural heritage significance.	M	H	H	M	H	2	No	Low						1 Potential impact to cultural sites likely to be minimal as all operational activities are located within existing easements. Archaeological survey to identify all significant areas prior to the commencement of significant excavation activities. All known sites are registered and included in planning documents; induction of employees. Fencing, flagging and recording of new sites.	Low
		Community Health																

