

OPERATIONS

High-stakes legal battle between INPEX and Akzo Nobel becomes mindful

Who thought what and when becomes crucial to case

Rueben Hale



Federal Court in Western Australia. Image provided by Australian Government.

19 July 2024



In a gripping courtroom drama, INPEX and Akzo Nobel are entangled in a high-stakes legal battle over a \$4.5 billion claim concerning the Ichthys LNG Project in the Northern Territory.

INPEX and its project partner JKC claim they were misled or deceived into believing I228 was a suitable product for use on the project.



trial, now in its 17th day of an 11-week duration, has become a focal point for arguments centred around the state of mind and relevance of evidence.

The manufacturer specifies 228HS has corrosion and chemical resistance properties for high-temperature use and is suitable for highly corrosive environments up to 230°C (446°F).

Central to the dispute are contentions regarding the admissibility and relevance of specific pieces of evidence, particularly concerning the state of mind and reliance of individuals involved in the case.

"The question in dispute is whether it significantly influenced anyone [from the INPEX or JKS team] to act [on foreseen problems with I228], given that each person was following their own state of mind," senior defence barrister Nicholas Bender told the court.

"This evidence is crucial in demonstrating that the different states of mind thought there was an endorsement [of 228HS]. We would then seek to draw the inference that they continued with their work while holding this belief," he added.

The defence aims to challenge the credibility of INPEX's evidence and undermine its substantial claims.

INPEX launched legal proceedings against various Akzo Nobel entities, collectively referred to as "ANIP," in the Federal Court of Australia. The dispute revolves around the circumstance of its use of I228.

Despite the legal wrangling, the Ichthys LNG project continues to maintain safe and stable production operations.


Over the past five years, INPEX has been managing a coating and insulation rectification program at its Darwin-based onshore facilities.

Inpex emphasises the importance of rectification work for the long-term safety and stability of the Ichthys LNG project during its 40-year operational lifespan.

Akzo Nobel's legal team has been meticulously questioning INPEX project management and technical specialists on issues related to reliance and the state of mind of witnesses, especially in the context of legal arguments about endorsements.

A significant point of contention is whether INPEX staff members believed in the 22HS's endorsements, which is deemed crucial to the case.

The defence has raised objections about the admission and weight of this evidence, delving into the engineering decisions and communications about changes to JKC specifications in November 2011.

The defence has also scrutinised the accuracy of meeting records, which are used to discuss technical issues, project management, and safety regulations for blasting work. INPEX managers were ented with questions about the veracity of meeting minutes and the initialling processes.

The case continues.

THEMES: GAS & LNG

TOPICS: INPEX \$4.5 BILLION ICHTHYS LNG PROJECT
NORTHERN TERRITORY AKZO NOBEL
NICHOLAS BENDER THE PAST FIVE YEARS
FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA
LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) AUSTRALIA
INPEX AUSTRALIA

RELATED ARTICLES

INPEX takes battle over Ichthys paint performance to Perth court

INPEX to give evidence in Akzo Nobel paint dispute

FEATURE: Blue Energy battles legal hurdles in quest for Queensland gas production

High Court to rule on Chevron vs CKJV legal saga

< PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Beach Energy records 10% increase in quarterly revenue

Get the Energy News Bulletin Newsletter delivered free each day



Enter your email address*

I consent to usage of my data as detailed in the [privacy policy](#).

MOST POPULAR

1

OPERATIONS

High-stakes legal battle between INPEX and Akzo Nobel becomes mindful

2

OPERATIONS

Beach Energy records 10% increase in quarterly revenue

3

EXPLORATION

Omega hires Halliburton for Queensland frac project

4

OPERATIONS

Triangle Energy to cease production in Cliff Head soon

RESEARCH

 Premium subscribers only

[View more](#)





ENB CCS Report 2024

ENB's CCS Report 2024 finds that CCS could be the much-needed magic bullet for Australia's decarbonisation drive



ENB Cost Report 2023

ENB's latest Cost Report findings provide optimism as investments in oil and gas, as well as new energy rise.



ENB Future of Energy Report 2023

ENB's inaugural Future of Energy Report details the industry outlook on the medium-to-long-term future for the sector in the Asia Pacific region.





This industry-wide report aims to understand current cost levels across the energy industry

energy news bulletin

LINKEDIN

X

YOUTUBE

FACEBOOK

+ CONTENT

+ ABOUT

+ SOLUTIONS

+ LEGAL

THE ASPERMONT BRAND PORTFOLIO

Minjng Journal

 M: N MiningNews.net

RESOURCE STOCKS

Minjng Magazine





Copyright © 2000-2024 Aspermont Ltd. All rights reserved. Aspermont Limited
(ABN 66 000 375 048), PO Box 78, Leederville, Western Australia 6902

