

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO REGION
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED
DATE: **18-MAR-2005** TIME: **1115** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **Shell Offshore Inc.**
REPRESENTATIVE: **Rodney Landry**
TELEPHONE: **(504) 728-1472**

3. LEASE: **G07963**
AREA: **MC** LATITUDE:
BLOCK: **807** LONGITUDE:

4. PLATFORM: **A-Mars TLP**
RIG NAME **H&P 201**

5. ACTIVITY: EXPLORATION(POE)
 DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION
(DOCD/POD)

6. TYPE: FIRE
 EXPLOSION
 BLOWOUT
 COLLISION
 INJURY NO. _____
 FATALITY NO. _____
 POLLUTION
 OTHER _____

7. OPERATION: PRODUCTION
 DRILLING
 WORKOVER
 COMPLETION
 MOTOR VESSEL
 PIPELINE SEGMENT NO. _____
 OTHER _____

8. CAUSE: EQUIPMENT FAILURE
 HUMAN ERROR
 EXTERNAL DAMAGE
 SLIP/TRIP/FALL
 WEATHER RELATED
 LEAK
 UPSET H2O TREATING
 OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
 OTHER _____

9. WATER DEPTH: **2945** FT.
10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **67** MI.
11. WIND DIRECTION: **N**
SPEED: **2** M.P.H.
12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **N**
SPEED: **2** M.P.H.
13. SEA STATE: **4** FT.
16. OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE/
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:
Rodney Landry
CITY: **Delcambre** STATE: **LA**
TELEPHONE: **(337) 685-4515**
CONTRACTOR: **Helmerich & Payne**
CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:
Marty Smith
CITY: **Viaden** STATE: **MS**
TELEPHONE: **(662) 464-5642**

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

During drilling operations a temporary fourth mud pump was installed with a Dynamic Annular Pressure Control System (DAPC) equipped with a pop-off valve on the discharge that was piped to a tank with a capacity of 15 barrels. The pop-off valve was set to relieve at 1250 psi, but the valve failed and prematurely relieved at 400 psi and filled the tank before the mud pump could be shut down and isolated. The tank overflowed and approximately 9 barrels of Rheliant Synthetic Based Mud (SBM) spilled with a ratio of 54% oil, 22% solid and 24% water. Of the total 9 barrels spilled about 3 barrels were on the rig floor and walls of the platform and 6 barrels spilled overboard. The National Response Center was notified pursuant to regulations.

18. LIST THE PROBABLE CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

The cutting box was not large enough to handle the amount of fluid generated by the activation of the PSV.

19. LIST THE CONTRIBUTING CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

- a) The PSV on the mud pump was faulty.
- b) The PSV was not tested to set pressure before it was put into service.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

Synthetic Based Mud (SBM) lost overboard.

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$899

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

No Recommendations to MMS.

The New Orleans District concurs with Shell Offshore Inc.'s recommendations to prevent a recurrence as stated below:

Corrective actions taken included a valve replacement with a new pop-off valve that was bench tested on site to 1500 psi, the discharge line was re-piped to the trip tank with a larger capacity of 50 barrels, along with the installation of a level alarm set to prevent overflow.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

E-100 30 CFR 250.300(a) States in part that...During the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas, the lessee shall take measures to prevent unauthorized discharge of pollutants into the offshore waters.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

18-MAR-2005

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Randy Josey / Perry Jennings /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: NO

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Troy Trosclair

APPROVED

DATE: 09-MAY-2005

POLLUTION ATTACHMENT

1. VOLUME: GAL 6 BBL
YARDS LONG X YARDS WIDE

APPEARANCE: **BARELY VISIBLE**

2. TYPE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: OIL
 DIESEL
 CONDENSATE
 HYDRAULIC
 NATURAL GAS
 OTHER Synthetic Base Mud

3. SOURCE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: **Mud Pump Discharge PSV**

4. WERE SAMPLES TAKEN? **NO**

5. WAS CLEANUP EQUIPMENT ACTIVATED? **NO**

IF SO, TYPE: SKIMMER
 CONTAINMENT BOOM
 ABSORPTION EQUIPMENT
 DISPERSANTS
 OTHER _____

6. ESTIMATED RECOVERY: GAL BBL

7. RESPONSE TIME: HOURS

8. IS THE POLLUTION IN THE PROXIMITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (CLASS I)? **NO**

9. HAS REGION OIL SPILL TASK FORCE BEEN NOTIFIED? **YES**

10. CONTACTED SHORE: **NO** IF YES, WHERE:

11. WERE ANY LIVE ANIMALS OBSERVED NEAR: **NO**

12. WERE ANY OILED OR DEAD ANIMALS OBSERVED NEAR SPILL: **NO**