

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

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: 22-MAR-2006 TIME: 0850 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Kerr-McGee Corporation

REPRESENTATIVE: Eric Hebert

TELEPHONE: (281) 673-7195

3. LEASE: G16865

AREA: AT LATITUDE:

BLOCK: 140 LONGITUDE:

4. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME DIAMOND OCEAN STAR

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: 3739 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 86 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: NNE

SPEED: 29 M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: NNE

SPEED: 2 M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: 9 FT.

16. OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE/  
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

Eric Hebert

CITY: Iota STATE: LA

TELEPHONE: (337) 779-2539

CONTRACTOR: Diamond Offshore Drilling,  
Inc.

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/  
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

Gary Case

CITY: Brookhaven STATE: MS

TELEPHONE: (601) 833-6266

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

The incident occurred while running 13 5/8" casing. The well was on trip tank and the trip tank volume started dropping. While the driller took action to line-up and fill the trip tank, the driller noticed the light was on indicating the diverter overboard valve was open. The diverter valve was closed immediately upon discovery. Approximately 19 barrels of SBM was discharged from the trip tank and through the diverter valve. No visible sheen was observed on the water surface. The percentage of oil in the synthetic based mud, was 52% which is approximately 9 bbls.

Investigation findings:

Rig Electrician & Sub-Sea Engineer checked for electrical problems at the accumulator panel. Electrical system checked normal.

When the air operated diverter valve was inspected, they noticed that the packing seal was leaking; this allowed the valve to open and release SOB mud over board.

The diverter valve is also used for well control operations and is tested weekly.

There is no preventative maintenance schedule for the diverter valve.

There is no alert system installed to monitor the valve when not in use.

The valve was repaired, and the valve on the other side of the diverter overboard line was also replaced as preventative maintenance.

The MMS was not notified of the pollution event.

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

The cause of the incident was due to leaking packing seal on the air operated valve which caused the valve to open.

There was no preventive maintenance schedule on the diverter valve.

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

There was no alert system to monitor the valve when not in use.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

**Synthetic Oil Base Mud**

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

**Lost Overboard**

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

**\$3,800**

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

**No recommendations to MMS**

**The New Orleans District concurs with operator's recommendation to prevent recurrence.**

**1) The rig will be evaluating the availability to install an alert system to monitor the valve when not in use.**

**2) The valve is also used for well control if needed and is tested weekly.**

**3) Replacement of the valves for every three years was added to the preventative maintenance schedule.**

**4) Environmental incident reporting procedures were also modified to ensure that MMS is notified of all SBM spills.**

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: **NO**

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

**30-MAR-2006**

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

**Perry Jennings /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**FPausina for TTrosclair**

APPROVED

DATE: **18-MAY-2006**

