

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

1. OCCURRED
 DATE: **07-FEB-2007** TIME: **0900** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **NCX Company, L.L.C.**
 REPRESENTATIVE: **Mark Howard**
 TELEPHONE: **(504) 838-7744**
 CONTRACTOR:
 REPRESENTATIVE:
 TELEPHONE:

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

4. LEASE: **G02322**
 AREA: **EI** LATITUDE:
 BLOCK: **349** LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM: **B**
 RIG NAME:

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

7. TYPE:

- HISTORIC INJURY
 - REQUIRED EVACUATION
 - LTA (1-3 days)
 - LTA (>3 days)
 - RW/JT (1-3 days)
 - RW/JT (>3 days)
 - Other Injury

- FATALITY
- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

- LWC HISTORIC BLOWOUT
 UNDERGROUND
 SURFACE
 DEVERTER
 SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

COLLISION HISTORIC >\$25K <=\$25K

- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
- CRANE
- OTHER LIFTING DEVICE
- DAMAGED/DISABLED SAFETY SYS.
- INCIDENT >\$25K
- H2S/15MIN./20PPM
- REQUIRED MUSTER
- SHUTDOWN FROM GAS RELEASE
- OTHER

6. OPERATION:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- 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: **94** FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **100** MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: **W**
 SPEED: **6** M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **E**
 SPEED: **6** M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: **1** FT.

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

A hydrocarbon spill of 2.14 bbl. was discharged into the OCS waters from the Eugene Island Block 349, B platform on February 7, 2007 at approximately 09:00 hours. The source of the spill was the sump tank and the spill occurred as personnel were washing down the main decks of the platform. Platform personnel investigated the sump tank system and determined that the sump tank had carried under and evacuated the sump tank of all liquid hydrocarbons and water. The platform deck wash down operations directed a large volume of water through the platform containment system to the sump tank. The large volume of wash down water commingled with hydrocarbons in the sump tank until the sump tank subsequently lost its oil-water interface. Once the oil-water interface was lost, liquid hydrocarbons and water began siphoning out the sump tank through the sump tank water leg. MMS Inspectors observed the hydrocarbon spill originating from the B platform, landed and initiated an onsite investigation. Onsite investigation determined that the water leg on a new sump tank that had just been installed had not been equipped with a siphon vent. MMS Inspectors issued an E-100 Incident of Noncompliance (INC) and ordered the B platform shut-in.

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

Failure to install a siphon vent on the water leg of the sump tank.

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

The water leg on the sump tank provides a means for the water to be discharged while an oil-water interface is maintained in the sump tank. The oil is maintained in the sump tank until it is pumped back into the process system. Failure to install a water leg siphon vent resulted in the inability to establish a necessary oil-water interface in the sump tank and ultimately a water and hydrocarbon carry under through the water leg until the sump tank had been evacuated of all liquids. Also, the adjustable up comer or baffles in the sump tank was not placed at the optimum level to minimize oil from being dumped into the gulf waters.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

None

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

None

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

MMS instructed NCX to install a siphon vent on the water leg outlet of the sump tank to eliminate the siphon effect when water is discharged from the sump tank.

MMS makes no recommendations to the Office of Safety Management.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: **YES**

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

INC E-100 INC was issued to document the 2.14 bbl. hydrocarbon spill through the water leg on the sump tank.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

07-FEB-2007

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Mike Hebert / David Suire / Johnny Serrette / Ronald Ashford /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Elliott S. Smith

APPROVED

DATE: **19-MAR-2007**

POLLUTION ATTACHMENT

1. VOLUME: GAL **2.14** BBL
7040 YARDS LONG X **200** YARDS WIDE

APPEARANCE: **RAINBOW SHEEN**

2. TYPE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: OIL
 DIESEL
 CONDENSATE
 HYDRAULIC
 NATURAL GAS
 OTHER _____

3. SOURCE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: **SUMP TANK WATER LEG**

4. WERE SAMPLES TAKEN? **NO**

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

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

6. ESTIMATED RECOVERY: **0** 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? **NO**

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**