

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

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **01-FEB-2007** TIME: **1715** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **BP Exploration & Production Inc.**

REPRESENTATIVE: **Robert Sanders**

TELEPHONE: **(281) 366-4488**

CONTRACTOR: **GFS COMPANY**

REPRESENTATIVE: **Ian Hillier**

TELEPHONE: **(281) 584-3898**

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

4. LEASE: **G15607**

AREA: **GC** LATITUDE:

BLOCK: **743** LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME: **GSF DEVELOPMENT DRILLER II**

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 **Motor on shale shaker failed**

6. OPERATION:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- OTHER **Motor on shale shaker failed**

8. CAUSE:

- EQUIPMENT FAILURE
- HUMAN ERROR
- EXTERNAL DAMAGE
- SLIP/TRIP/FALL
- WEATHER RELATED
- LEAK
- UPSET H2O TREATING
- OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

9. WATER DEPTH: **6820** FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **122** MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: **S**  
SPEED: **30** M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **SE**  
SPEED: **1** M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: **3** FT.

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

On the afternoon of February 1, 2007 the rig had stopped drilling and had pulled the drill pipe back in to the casing shoe to work on maintenance items and was circulating the wellbore. The electric motor on one of the shale shakers failed. The screens stopped moving and coated over with mud and cuttings. Three barrels of synthetic based mud (SBM) overran the screens into the secondary skimmer for the cuttings drying equipment which overflowed into the over board trough and then into the Gulf. The duration that the shaker was inoperative was about one minute. See attached pictures and diagrams of the shale shaker area.

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

The failure of the motor on the shale shaker was not tied into an automatic shut-in device to divert the flow of the mud to another shaker or to an audible or visual alarm to warn the crew member working in the area of the motor failure. The lack of alarms allowed the motor failure to go unnoticed long enough to cause the three barrel spill by allowing the mud to coat over the screens and overflow the SBM in to the Gulf.

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

With seven shale shakers it is difficult for one crew member to monitor all the equipment continuously. The lack of additional personnel could have been a contributing factor in not noticing the motor failure before the screens coated over with mud and overflowed the SBM in to the Gulf.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The rig plans to put an extra crew member in the shale shaker room until they can install warning lights to alarm when the motor on the shale shaker fails.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

**None**

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

**None**

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

**\$**

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

**Due to the specific nature of this spill, the Houma District has no recommendations to the Regional Office.**

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

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

**Kelly Bouzigard / Fred Hefren /  
John McCarroll /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Michael J. Saucier**

APPROVED

DATE: **25-MAR-2007**

