

Safety Alert

MMS

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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Multiple Cable Transit Failures

Following the passage of Hurricane Dennis, personnel returned to the Thunder Horse facility to find it listing at approximately 20 degrees with the top deck in the water on the port side. This incident is currently under investigation and the exact source/cause of the water influx/listing has not been determined at this time; however, information has been discovered that needs to be shared with industry.

Preliminary findings from the investigation indicate that water movement among the access spaces occurred through failed multiple cable transits (MCT's). MCT's are the points in the watertight bulkheads where cables that carry electrical power and instrument signals pass through the watertight bulkheads. Essentially, MCT's are molded blocks of plastic that seal around each cable. Failure occurred in the spaces filled with blank blocks. Specifically, the findings indicate that either the MCT's may not have been installed properly, may have been installed using the wrong procedures, or may not have been properly pressure rated for the configurations being used.



Until the investigation is completed and the findings verified, the MMS recommends that all operators and contractors should

- Review their facilities to determine if they have these types of MCT's.
- Determine if the MCT's were properly installed and properly pressure rated for the configurations being used.

Following the conclusion of this investigation, the MMS will issue an updated Safety Alert.