

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

# ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **11-AUG-2007** TIME: **1820** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **Hunt Petroleum (AEC), Inc.**  
REPRESENTATIVE: **Guidry, Victoria**  
TELEPHONE: **(713) 871-3400**  
CONTRACTOR: **ISLAND OPERATORS CO. INC.**  
REPRESENTATIVE: **Kirk Bellard**  
TELEPHONE: **(337) 233-9594**

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

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

6. OPERATION:

4. LEASE: **G23936**  
AREA: **ST** LATITUDE: **28.32483825**  
BLOCK: **254** LONGITUDE: **-90.27938829**

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- OTHER

5. PLATFORM: **A**  
RIG NAME:

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

8. CAUSE:

7. TYPE:

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

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

- FATALITY
- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

9. WATER DEPTH: **219** FT.

LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT

- UNDERGROUND
- SURFACE
- DEVERTER
- SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **55** MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: **W**  
SPEED: **9** M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **SE**  
SPEED: **2** M.P.H.

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

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

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 11 August 2007 at 1820 hours, a pollution event occurred at the unmanned South Timbalier Block 254 Platform A. Well A2 on this structure produces a tight emulsion that requires heat in order for the oil and water to separate. The line heater on the facility had gone out and the emulsion was dumped to the flotation cell. Approximately 150 gallons of hydrocarbons were released from the flotation cell, facilitated by a malfunctioning Level Safety High (LSH). This resulted in an approximately 8 mile by 1/4 mile sheen. This sheen was discovered just before helicopter downtime on 11 August 2007. The next morning, platform operators flew approximately 20 miles in the last known direction of the sheen and saw no evidence of the sheen remaining. Operations were initiated to correct the problem while ensuring this event does not happen again.

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

The probable cause of this event was a malfunctioning LSH. The LSH did test good before and after the release, but failed to bleed off enough to trip the panel upon inspection on 13 August 2007.

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

The only contributing cause of this event was that the line heater had gone out.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

N/A

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

None

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

N/a

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

Due to the specific nature of this incident, the Houma District has no recommendations to report to the Regional Office of Safety Management.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: NO

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

None

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

13-AUG-2007

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:  
**Lance Belanger / Amy Wilson /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION  
PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Michael J. Saucier**

APPROVED

DATE: **01-OCT-2007**

# POLLUTION ATTACHMENT

1. VOLUME: GAL 3.5 BBL

14080 YARDS LONG X 440 YARDS WIDE

APPEARANCE: RAINBOW SHEEN

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

3. SOURCE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: Flotation Cell

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? 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

