

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

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: 26-JAN-2010 TIME: 1100 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Cobalt International Energy, L.P.
REPRESENTATIVE: Rachal, Erin
TELEPHONE: (281) 578-3388
CONTRACTOR:
REPRESENTATIVE:
TELEPHONE:

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

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

6. OPERATION:

4. LEASE: G31744
AREA: GC LATITUDE: 27.2933
BLOCK: 685 LONGITUDE: -90.7232

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

5. PLATFORM:
RIG NAME: GSF DEVELOPMENT DRILLER I

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: FT.

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

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: NE
SPEED: 9 M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: S
SPEED: 1 M.P.H.

COLLISION HISTORIC >\$25K <=\$25K 13. SEA STATE: 2 FT.

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 26-Jan-2010 at 1100 hours while conducting drilling operations, rig personnel noticed synthetic oil base mud being discharged into the Gulf of Mexico waters from the rotary pollution pan located below the drill floor. The rig personnel immediately stopped the mud pump and subsequent discharge, while checking the arrangement of valves for the flowlines and trip tank. It was then discovered that the flowline valve had not functioned to the open position, however the valve was indicated in the open position on the mimic panel screen. Rig personnel tested the flowline valve again and visually confirmed that the valve properly functioned to the open position. The valve and mimic screen were corrected and no further discharge was observed from the overflow of the pollution pan. Approximately 4 bbls of synthetic oil base mud was discharged into the Gulf of Mexico.

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

The flowline valve malfunctioned by failing to open while pumping drilling mud, thereby resulting in synthetic oil base mud overflowing from the pollution pan to the Gulf of Mexico waters.

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

The mimic panel incorrectly indicated the flowline valve as being open although the valve was actually closed.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

N/A

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

N/A

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

N/A

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$1,000

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

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

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: NO

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

N/A

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Casey Bisso /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

OCS REPORT:

Bryan A. Domangue

APPROVED

DATE: **17-MAR-2010**

