

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

# ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **20-SEP-2007** TIME: **1000** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **Woodside Energy (USA) Inc.**  
REPRESENTATIVE: **Kennedy, Danny**  
TELEPHONE: **(985) 249-5452**  
CONTRACTOR: **NOBLE DRILLING (U.S.) INC.**  
REPRESENTATIVE: **Dehut, Chris**  
TELEPHONE: **(281) 276-6197**

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

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

6. OPERATION:

4. LEASE: **G23005**  
AREA: **GC** LATITUDE: **27.02527**  
BLOCK: **949** LONGITUDE: **-90.69444**

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

5. PLATFORM:  
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: **5368** FT.

LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT  
 UNDERGROUND  
 SURFACE  
 DEVERTER  
 SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **138** MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: **N**  
SPEED: **14** M.P.H.

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

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

13. SEA STATE: **5** FT.

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 20 September 2007, while drilling operations were in progress, a Synthetic Base Mud (SBM) leak was observed by a routine ROV riser inspection. The leak was observed at the connection between joints number 11 and 12 at 4573 feet subsea depth. Drilling was suspended, the well was secured, and the riser was displaced with seawater. The riser was then pulled to surface for inspection and repair of the connection. It was estimated that a total of 20 barrels of SBM was discharged into GOM waters.

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

The riser is designed to have two seals for each connection. There is an o-ring seal and a flat seal. The flat seal was found to be missing when the riser was pulled to surface and inspected.

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

Inclement weather may have caused movement of the riser such that the one seal in the connection could not prevent the mud from discharging into the water.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

No supporting documentation can be provided that states the seals were in fact in place while the connection was made.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

20 barrels of SBM lost.

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

Discharge into GOM.

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$8,000

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

The Houma District has no recommendations for the Regional Office of Safety Management.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

An Incident of Non-Compliance, E-100, for pollution will be written to the operator.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Ben Coco /

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

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Michael J. Saucier**

APPROVED

DATE: **14-NOV-2007**

# POLLUTION ATTACHMENT

1. VOLUME: GAL 20 BBL  
YARDS LONG X YARDS WIDE

APPEARANCE:

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

3. SOURCE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: **Synthetic Base Mud discharged from Riser Joint Connection**

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**

