

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT  
GULF OF MEXICO REGION

# ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

*For Public Release*

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **25-MAR-2014** TIME: **0610** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.**  
REPRESENTATIVE:  
TELEPHONE:  
CONTRACTOR: **NOBLE DRILLING (U.S.) INC.**  
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: **G27277**  
AREA: **MC** LATITUDE:  
BLOCK: **503** LONGITUDE:

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

5. PLATFORM:  
RIG NAME: **NOBLE AMOS RUNNER**

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

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

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

9. WATER DEPTH: **2630** FT.
10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **39** MI.
11. WIND DIRECTION: **NNE**  
SPEED: **22** M.P.H.
12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **ENE**  
SPEED: **1** M.P.H.
13. SEA STATE: FT.

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS: -

On 3-25-2014, at 0600 hours, an incident occurred that resulted in a discharge of 15.3 pound per gallon Synthetic Based Mud into offshore waters. The total mud lost was 42 barrels.

A rig employee was in the process of cleaning out the pre-mix pit. Needing to drain the seawater from the pit, the rig employee opened the dump valve for the pre-mix pit. Once open, the employee went below the pit deck and opened the master dump valve. No personnel were monitoring the pits at the time the master dump valve was opened. After opening the master dump valve and returning to the pits, the employee discovered that another pit (pit #2) containing Synthetic Based Mud was losing fluid. The employee then closed the master dump valve and all losses were stopped.

After further investigation by the rig, it was discovered that a butterfly valve locking handle broke from the valve handle and became lodged into pit #2's dump valve. This prevented full closure for the #2 pit's dump valve; which ultimately allowed mud to be dumped overboard when the master dump valve was opened.

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

1) The dump valve on pit #2 was obstructed by a butterfly valve locking handle.

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

- 1) Butterfly valve locking handle breaking loose from valve handle and falling into the #2 pit.
- 2) No personnel monitoring the pits at the time the master dump valve was opened. -

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All mud pits have an individual dump valve that is piped into one master dump valve

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

42 bbl of Synthetic Based mud

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

Lost overboard

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

The BSEE New Orleans District makes no recommendations to the Agency.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING NARRATIVE:

E-100 (W) On 3-25-2014 42-bbls. of Synthetic based mud (15.3 ppg) was released into Gulf of Mexico waters. (23.5 bbls. oil in mud).

NOTE: While cleaning pre-mix pit, rig hand opened the master dump valve. All other mud-pit dump valves were closed with the exception of pit #2 being partially blocked open by butterfly valve locking handle which came apart from the valve handle falling to the bottom of mud pit #2.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

26-MAR-2014

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Earl Roy /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: NO

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

David Trocquet

APPROVED

DATE: 05-JUN-2014

# INJURY/FATALITY/WITNESS ATTACHMENT

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> INJURY
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> FATALITY
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WITNESS

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

WORK PHONE:

TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE:

YEARS

EMPLOYED BY:

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> INJURY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> FATALITY
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WITNESS

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

WORK PHONE:

TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE:

YEARS

EMPLOYED BY:

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

# POLLUTION ATTACHMENT

1. VOLUME: GAL - 42 BBL  
YARDS LONG X YARDS WIDE

APPEARANCE:

2. TYPE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED:  OIL  
 DIESEL  
 CONDENSATE  
 HYDRAULIC  
 NATURAL GAS  
 OTHER Synthetic Base Mud

3. SOURCE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: **Obstructed dump valve on pit #2.-**

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**