

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.  
10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 55 MI.  
11. WIND DIRECTION: W  
SPEED: 9 M.P.H.  
12. CURRENT DIRECTION: SE  
SPEED: 2 M.P.H.  
13. SEA STATE: 3 FT.

LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT  
 UNDERGROUND  
 SURFACE  
 DEVERTER  
 SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES  
COLLISION  HISTORIC  >\$25K  <=\$25K

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 RECURRANCE 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**

