

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
 GULF OF MEXICO REGION  
**ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT**

1. OCCURRED  
 DATE: 13-NOV-2008 TIME: 0100 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Wild Well Control, Inc.  
 REPRESENTATIVE: Savoy, Joe  
 TELEPHONE: (281) 784-4700  
 CONTRACTOR:  
 REPRESENTATIVE:  
 TELEPHONE:

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

4. LEASE: 00133  
 AREA: GI LATITUDE: 28.95  
 BLOCK: 47 LONGITUDE: -90.017

5. PLATFORM: C  
 RIG NAME:

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

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

FATALITY  
 POLLUTION  
 FIRE  
 EXPLOSION

LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT  
 UNDERGROUND  
 SURFACE  
 DEVERTER  
 SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

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

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

6. OPERATION:

PRODUCTION  
 DRILLING  
 WORKOVER  
 COMPLETION  
 HELICOPTER  
 MOTOR VESSEL  
 PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.  
 OTHER P&A and Salvage job.

8. CAUSE:

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

9. WATER DEPTH: 91 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 12 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: N  
 SPEED: 29 M.P.H.

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

13. SEA STATE: 6 FT.

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

On November 13, 2008, at 0750 hours on Wild Well Control, Inc's. (WWCI's) Lease OCS 00133, Grand Isle Block 47, Platform C, Plug and Abandonment (P&A) and salvage operations were shut down when the operator discovered a pollution event. The operator initially reported that the incident was caused by a wellhead being struck while removing a debris basket, but subsequent to the incident investigation it was determined that the incident resulted from wellhead mechanical failure. On November 13, 2008, WWCI reported an estimated release of 2.1 barrels, while O'Brien's Group reported an estimated release of 33.3 barrels. On November 25, 2008, the MMS New Orleans District conducted an onsite investigation to estimate the worst case total volume of 36.9 barrels (versus the accumulation volume of 5.7 barrels estimated by WWCI) for the entire event that occurred from November 13, 2008 to November 25, 2008.

Sequence of Events:

- 1) 11-13-08: The Superior Performance was preparing to remove debris baskets from the site, when the Operator discovered that a pollution event was occurring and all operations were shut down prior to WWCI investigating the incident. The Gulf Diver V (GDV) then moved on location to stop and identify the source of the leak.
- 2) 11-14-08: The release was initially thought to be from the C-7 Well, but it was discovered that the source of the release was the C-14 Well. The GDV's attempt to stop the leak was unsuccessful so it moved off location, and the Superior Performance moved onto location.
- 3) 11-15-08: The Superior Performance attempted unsuccessfully to stop leak with a pollution dome, tanks, hoses, gas busters, splash zone and synthoglass.
- 4) 11-16-08: The decision was made to mobilize and install several different types of wellhead configurations to contain the product.
- 5) 11-17-08 thru 11-18-08: Weather downtime.
- 6) 11-19-08: Initial cuts were made on casings to install the 7 5/8" wellhead. The well is bent over at 40 degrees from horizontal, and WWCI is monitoring the well.
- 7) 11-20-08: The wellhead was installed and tested. The pollution has stopped, with 400 psig on the wellhead.
- 8) 11-21-08: The wellhead pressure increased to 750 psig. Monitored well, with final wellhead report.  
Barge proceeded to pick up debris baskets.
- 9) 11-22-08: Barge rigging and picking up debris baskets.
- 10) 11-23-08: Barge continues rigging and picking up debris baskets.
- 11) 11-24-08 @ 0100 hours: Barge notes gas bubble off of the stern with some sheen visible at night. 0300 hours: Initial spill report filed with the National Response Center (NRC). Diver inspected well C-14 and discovered well leaking from 10 3/4" x 7 5/8" casing annulus. The diver cannot determine if wellhead seals are leaking or if gas is coming from deeper annulus depth. 0700 hours: First overflight. Estimated 1.82 bbls on water. Spill direction to 280 degrees. Well continues to bubble.

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

**Mechanical Failure: Wellhead failed.**

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

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Attached A - eWell Offshore Incident Report (OIR) dated 11-24-08 (3 Pages)
- Attached B - New Orleans District's OIR Report dated 11-25-08 (2 Pages)
- Attached C - Operator's Project Memo and picture of wellhead dated 11-24-08 (4 Pages)
- Attached D - Operator's Oil Spill Estimator Report (14 Pages)
- Attached E - Operator's Flyover Reports (15 pages)

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

**None**

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

**None**

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

**\$**

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

**The MMS New Orleans District makes no recommendations to the MMS Regional Office.**

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: **NO**

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

**No INC issued.**

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

**25-NOV-2008**

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

**Phil McLean / Mark Hasenkampf /  
Tom Meyer /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**David J. Trocquet**

APPROVED

DATE: **14-JAN-2009**

# POLLUTION ATTACHMENT

1. VOLUME: GAL 36.9 BBL  
YARDS LONG X YARDS WIDE

APPEARANCE: **BARELY VISIBLE**

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

3. SOURCE OF HYDROCARBON RELEASED: **Mechanical failure on the C-14 Well**

4. WERE SAMPLES TAKEN? **NO**

5. WAS CLEANUP EQUIPMENT ACTIVATED? **NO**

IF SO, TYPE:  SKIMMER  
 CONTAINMENT BOOM  
 ABSORPTION EQUIPMENT  
 DISPERSANTS  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

6. ESTIMATED RECOVERY: 0 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**