

# ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **07-JAN-2023** TIME: **1920** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **BOE Exploration & Production LLC**

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR: **Transocean Offshore**

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
- CRANE
- OTHER LIFTING PLS
- 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:

4. LEASE: **G31938**

AREA: **WR** LATITUDE:

BLOCK: **51** LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME: **T.O. DEEPWATER ATLAS**

6. ACTIVITY:

- EXPLORATION(POE)
- DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION  
(DOCD/POD)

7. TYPE:

INJURIES:

- HISTORIC INJURY
- OPERATOR
- CONTRACTOR
- REQUIRED EVACUATION
- LTA (1-3 days)
- LTA (>3 days)
- RW/JT (1-3 days)
- RW/JT (>3 days)
- FATALITY
- Other Injury

- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

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

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

8. OPERATION:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- DECOMMISSIONING
- PA  PIPELINE  SITE CLEARANCE
- TA  PLATFORM
- OTHER

9. CAUSE:

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

10. WATER DEPTH: **5845** FT.

11. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **154** MI.

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

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

14. SEA STATE: FT.

15. PICTURES TAKEN:

16. STATEMENT TAKEN:

On January 7, 2023, an incident occurred on the drillship Transocean Deepwater Atlas which was working under contract for Beacon Offshore Energy (BOE) Exploration & Production LLC. Drilling operations were being conducted at Walker Ridge Block 51, OCS-G31938 Well SA009. The Driller was in the process of laying down a single joint of 6-5/8" drill pipe using the Pipe Laydown System (PLS). When the drill pipe was rotated from the vertical to horizontal position, the PLS released the drill pipe allowing it to fall onto the drill floor and pipe skate. No injuries were reported, and an onsite investigation was initiated.

On the night of January 7, 2023, the drill crew, consisting of a Assistant Driller and (3) Floorhands, reviewed the Job by Design (JBD) and proceeded to lay out a single joint of 6.625" drill pipe from the mouse hole onto the pipe skate utilizing the PLS. As the Assistant Driller began to rotate the PLS from the vertical to horizontal position, the drill pipe came free from the PLS, landing on the pipe skate 58 feet below. All personnel were in the designated safe step back area, clear of the drop zone as per the JBD. The job was stopped, and the area was made secure. No injuries were reported, and an onsite investigation was initiated.

**Investigation:**

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) inspectors conducted an onsite investigation on January 19, 2023. The BSEE investigation team consisting of Well Operations Inspectors were able to collect incident documentation and photos from the operator and contractor at the team's request. The BSEE investigation team reviewed all of the provided documentation and found that the drill crew was working on the auxiliary drill floor and was laying out a single joint of 6.625" drill pipe, weighing 60.78 lbs./ft, from the mouse hole using the PLS. When the PLS was initiated by the Assistant Driller, it successfully gripped the single joint but with only the roller jaw. The centralizer and gripper arms did not fully grip the pipe. This was due to an unknown leak in the hydraulics. The control system gave no indication to the Assistant Driller of unintended movement from 90 degrees to 87.2 degrees. The PLS gripper does not send a verification that the head is gripped around the tubular. The Assistant Driller utilized the screen on the Driller's chair to verify the PLS had closed all arms and was ready to pick up the drill pipe. Due to the Assistant Driller's view being obstructed by a derrick beam, he was not able to confirm the proper grip but proceeded to lay down the single joint of drill pipe anyway. There is no alarm that will alert the Assistant Driller of any unintended movement of the PLS. The PLS released the joint of drill pipe falling 58 feet onto the pipe skate.

Since the incident, the contractor will install a camera for visual confirmation of the proper grip on tubulars and get confirmation of the proper grip from the Floorhands in safe step back area before proceeding. The manufacturer will address feedback of unintended movement of the PLS via alarm on the Assistant Drillers screen on the Driller's chair.

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

**Equipment Failure:** PLS did not fully grip the drill pipe due to a hydraulic leak.

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

Verifiacion of the closure of the PLS gripper was made by the Driller's chair screen only.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

N/A

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

N/A

N/A

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

**BSEE Houma District has no recommendations for the Office of Incident Investigations at this time.**

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

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

**None**

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

**19-JAN-2023**

28. ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION:

26. Investigation Team Members/Panel Members:

**Tony Bass / Gabe Orellana / Robert Reeves - Author /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FORMED:

**NO**

OCS REPORT:

27. OPERATOR REPORT ON FILE:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Amy Pellegrin**

APPROVED

DATE: **22-SEP-2023**