Civil Penalties Program

The goal of the BSEE OCS Civil Penalties Program is to assure safe and clean operations on the OCS. Through the pursuit, assessment, and collection of civil penalties and referrals for the consideration of criminal penalties, the program is designed to encourage compliance with OCS statutes and regulations.

2015 Civil Penalties Summary Penalties Paid for 2015

(1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015)

Operator Name and Case No.	Violation and Date(s)	Penalty Paid and Date Paid	Regulation(s) Violated 30 CFR)
Hilcorp Energy GOM, LLC	During the course of a BSEE inspection, it was discovered that multiple	\$130,000 7/10/15	
G-2011-010	safety devices/systems were not tested prior to bringing the platform back online.		
	September 28, 2010		250.300(b)
Tengasco, Inc.	During the course of a BSEE inspection, the	\$386,000	
Prime 8 Offshore Services	inspector discovered that testing records were missing for various	8/27/15	
G-2011-016	components. This indicated that multiple production safety devices for the facility were not being tested from August 30, 2010 to January 25, 2011. It was also discovered the Surface Controlled Subsurface Safety Valve (SCSSV) for production wells, were not being tested from 2010 to 2011. June 30, 2010 – March 8, 2011 (8 violations)		250.804(a)(1) 250.804(a)(3) 250.804(a)(4) 250.804(a)(5) 250.804(a)(6)
Stone Energy Corporation	During the course of a BSEE investigation into an incident involving	\$40,000 6/26/15	
G-2012-013	discarded equipment overboard, it was discovered that the operator failed to conduct operations in a safe and workmanlike manner by failure to follow company procedures and Stop Work		250.107(a)
	Authority. They failed to		250.300(b)(6)

	prevent the overboard disposal of the wireline jarring tool into offshore water.		
	December 29, 2011 (2 violations)		
W&T Offshore, Inc	During the course of a BSEE inspection, the	\$100,000	
(Helmerich & Payne)	inspector discovered the Coil Tubing BOP	6/24/15	
G-2012-034	tests, dated June 4, 2012 for the coil tubing operations between June 4- 8, 2013 were unsatisfactory and non-compliant.		
	June 4-8, 2012		250.448
Dynamic Offshore Resources, LLC	During the course of a BSEE Inspection, it was	\$490,000	
(Wood Group Production Services)	discovered that the upper segment of the 3" blow down line off of a compressor discharge had	6/10/15	
G-2013-042	broken and was not replaced or repaired. As a result, gas was being discharged at a lower elevation and closer to the compressor unit and a fired vessel. Additionally, it was discovered that the second primary egress required on the manned facility was barricaded off due to grating sections missing from the path to the boat landing. This condition limited the personnel to having only a single means of egress. April 29-June 26, 2013		250.803(b)(1)(i)
Northstar Offshore	During the course of a	\$55,000	
Group, LLC	BSEE investigation, there was an eye injury caused	8/20/15	
G-2014-003	by improper mixture of caustic material and failure to wear proper personal protective equipment.		
	August 2, 2013		250.401(e)
Tetra Technologies, Inc.	During the course of a BSEE investigation, an employee was injured after	\$25,000 8/24/15	
G-2014-009	right leg went through improperly secured grating.		250.107(a)

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	December 9, 2013		
SandRidge Offshore, LLC.	During the course of a BSEE investigation, there was properly damage	\$87,000 2/25/15	
G-2014-011	during drilling rig skidding operations. SandRidge failed to utilize a rig skidding procedure. Failure to utilize the correct skidding guide created a threat and property damage during each skidding operation since the rig package was installed.		
	May 25–September 18, 2013		250.107(a)
Black Elk Energy Offshore	During the course of a BSEE inspection, it	\$30,000	
Operations, LLC	was discovered that a sump pump was found with	5/12/15	
G-2014-014	the discharge valve in the closed position rendering the sump pump from operating properly.		
	October 8, 2013		250.300(b)
Black Elk Energy Offshore Operaitons, LLC G-2014-016	During the course of a BSEE inspection, there was severe corrosion and leaking oil problems from the Lease Automatic Custody Transfer skid. The Inspectors also observed other safety hazards on the platform.	\$125,000 1/09/15	
	October 2, 2013-January 7, 2014		250.107
Ensco Offshore Co.	During the course of a BSEE investigation into an	\$37,000	
G-2014-020	Explosion and flash fire incident resulting in injuries, it was discovered that Ensco failed to operate in a safe and workmanlike manner by failure to follow Safety Alert procedures and take precautions while charging the Composite Air Pressure Vessel.	2/27/15	
	November 2, 2013		250.107(a)
Sandridge Energy Offshore, LLC	During the course of a BSEE investigation, it was discovered that oil on the	\$111,750 9/1/15	250.107/6\
	alocovered that off off the		250.107(a)

G-2014-022	facility created unsafe		
	conditions. Further investigation found 2 leaks		
	that caused the discharge.		
	February 3, 2014 (2 violations)		
ANKOR Energy, LLC	During the course of a BSEE investigation of an injury, a floorhand	\$35,000 6/11/15	
(Ensco Offshore Co.)	sustained a finger injury during casing lifting		
G-2014-026	operations onboard a jack- up rig during drilling operations. The injury was caused by an unsupported casing joint.		
	February 14, 2014		250.107(a)
Go Mex Energy Offshore, Ltd.	During the course of a BSEE inspection, it was	\$30,000	
G-2014-027	discovered that the grating over the well bay had been	5/21/15	
	removed. It was observed that the deck for the rig was		
	lying on the grating on the main deck with access		
	hatches open exposing a 5' x 5' open hole. The		
	inspectors found that only three sides of the Texas		
	deck were barricaded. No		
	personnel were observed guarding the open hole to		
	prevent other personnel working over the well bay		
	from falling through the hole		
	in the grating.		(()
SandRidge	May 6, 2014 During the course of a	\$50,000	250.107(a)
Offshore, LLC.	BSEE inspection, it was observed that an electrical	2/2/15	
G-2014-033	box in a Class I Division 2		
	area had exposed electrical wiring and severe		
	corrosion.		
	June 29-30, 2014		250.114(c)
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.	During the course of a BSEE inspection, it was discovered		
G-2014-035	that the a section of handrail	4/27/15	
	on the waiting deck under th heliport not secured.		
	The socket sleeve for securi the handrail had been		
	removed. The unsecured		250.107

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	handrail caused a threat, which would have allowed a person to fall 40 feet to the next deck below.		
	June 19-July 2, 2014		
ANKOR Energy, LLC 2014-042	During the course of a BSEE investigation, it was discovered that a construction worker received injuries to the shoulder from a crane lifting event.	\$25,000 8/6/15	
	June 8, 2014		250.108
Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations, LLC G-2014-043	During the course of a BSEE investigation, it was determined that a pin hole developed in the heater treater fire tube that allowed produced oil to leak inside the fire tube and spray in the vicinity of the main burner. This caused a fire with a continuing fuel source even though the burner fuel gas had been shut off.	\$40,000 7/2/15	
	April 18, 2014		250.107
Energy XXI GOM, LLC G-2014-045	During the course of a BSEE investigation into an incident resulting in an injury, it was discovered that employees failed to operate in a safe and workmanlike manner for failure to wear proper personal protective equipment while troubleshooting the platform generator shut down. August 6, 2014	\$35,000 10/30/15	250.401(e)
Black Elk Energy	During the course of a	\$334,986	. ,
Offshore Operations, LLC Island Operators Co., INC G-2014-046	BSEE investigation, it was determined that the Manual Master Valve and Surface Safety Valve (SSV) on the wellhead were leaking due to the well having a history of making traces of sand. Additionally, the wing valve on the flow line segment of the well was leaking which allowed a shut in tubing	8/31/15	
	pressure of 3200 Pounds		250.107(a)

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	per square inch gauge to be present up to the out of service production header.		
	August 16,2013-July 4, 2014		
Arena Offshore, LP G-2014-048	During the course of a BSEE investigation of an injury, it was discovered that a contract employee received burns from hot oil coming from a pressured vessel, which also resulted in a pollution	\$45,000 4/30/15	
	event. At the time of the incident, the contract operator was attempting to replace a defective pneumatic temperature controller on a Heater Treater.		
	June 23, 2014 (2 violations)		250.107(a)
Black Elk Energy Offshore	During the course of a BSEE investigation into	\$60,000	
Operations, LLC	an incident resulting in	7/27/15	
G-2014-049	property damage, it was discovered that Black Elk failed to; (1) Operate in a safe and workmanlike manner for failure to follow operator safety procedures and Job Safety Analysis (JSA) mitigation measures during lifting operations; and (2) Ensure crane lift operations are stopped when it is known that adverse conditions are present including (a) poor visibility; and (b) no signal men.		
W/8T Offshore Inc	September 4, 2014 (2 violations)	\$40,000	250.108 250.107(a)
W&T Offshore, Inc	During the course of a BSEE investigation into	\$40,000	
G-2014-050	an incident, it was discovered that a crew member cut a control line with a torch without rendering the line inert of hydrocarbons or flammable material resulting in a flash fire and injury.	7/7/15	
	June 8, 2014		250.113(c)(3)

W&T Offshore, Inc	During the course of a	\$30,000	
G-2014-051	BSEE investigation of an injury, it was discovered that a contract employee was evacuated after he received a laceration to his left index finger during well tripping operations. At	4/30/15	
	the time of the incident, the contract employee was attempting to tighten the lifting sub on the drill collar.		
	June 17, 2014		250.107(a)
Bois d' Arc Exploration LLC	During the course of a BSEE accident investigation, it was	\$80,000 6/2/15	
G-2014-054	discovered that while conducting drilling operations onboard a drilling rig, an employee was fatally injured after being electrocuted in an attempt to troubleshoot electrical issues on the cementing unit.		
	January 26, 2014 (2 violations)		250.107(a) 250.107
Black Elk Energy Offshore	During the course of a	\$30,000	
Operations, LLC G-2014-056	BSEE inspection, it was discovered the Motor Control Center (MCC) north door, and the south double doors could not be opened from the inside of the building. The only access to and from the downstairs office in the MCC was through the gas generator building. In the event of a fire or sudden release of gas in the generator building, workers in the downstairs office of the MCC would be trapped, because the north and south exit doors were locked from the outside.	5/14/15	
Enlan Energy	October 2, 2014	¢40,000	250.107(a)
EnVen Energy Ventures, LLC G-2014-057	During the course of a BSEE inspection, the inspectors discovered two open-hole violations.	\$40,000 8/10/15	
	Neither was barricaded nor was fall protection		250.107(a)

GoMex Energy Offshore, Ltd. G-2014-058	equipment in place. This created an unsafe and unworkmanlike operation and posed a threat to personnel. October 17, 2014 During the course of a BSEE inspection, it was discovered that the approved drawings indicated a low accumulator pressure alarm to be set at 2500 psi. During the accumulator test, the driller bled the accumulator pressure to 1900 psi, at which time the alarm failed to function.	\$25,282 11/24/15	
	October 24-29, 2014		240.410
GoMex Energy Offshore, Ltd.	During the course of an inspection, BSEE Inspectors observed a	\$20,000 9/10/15	210.110
G-2015-002	portable electric drum type fan tied to the second and fourth stage discharge cylinders on the booster gas compressor. The fan was designed for general purpose use and not rated for a Class I Division 2 area.		
	November 10, 2014		250.107
Arena Offshore, LP	During the course of a BSEE accident	\$35,000	
G-2015-006	investigation, it was discovered that during a sandblasting operation, an unsecured hatch lid on a sand hopper dislodged from the hopper, and severely injured a worker.	7/14/15	
	October 24, 2014		250.107(a)(2)
Castex Offshore, Inc. G-2015-008	During the course of a BSEE inspection, violations were discovered for incidents resulting in pollution, accumulated oil on the platform, and improper installation of the batteries utilized for the fuel gas heaters.	\$45,000 8/18/15	250.114(c) 250.107
	March 7, 2015 (3 violations)		250.300(a)

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Cochon Properties, LLC	While conducting temporary abandonment operations of a well, the platform crane	\$40,000 10/23/15	
G-2015-009	was used in an attempt to separate the tubing hanger from the casing head. This occurred without verifying the load was free. This is a failure to follow the requirements for cranes and other material-handling equipment		
	January 14, 2015		250.108
Castex Offshore, Inc.	During the course of a BSEE accident	\$37,000	
G-2015-010	investigation it was discovered that during well operations, the drill crew was laying down a joint of 3 1/2" drill pipe. A nut backed off of the shackle pin, causing the slings to release from a four part shackle that allowed the 3 1/2" drill pipe to fall, and injured two workers.	9/11/15	
	December 30, 2014		250.107(a)(1)
Anglo-Suisse Offshore Partners, LLC G-2015-014	During the course of an inspection, BSEE inspectors observed an unsafe handrail on the boat landing of the platform. Inspectors also observed the SCSSV on a well blocked in the open position, preventing the SCSSV incapable of performing its designed safety function.	\$60,000 10/19/15	
	July 9-10, 2014 July 1, 2014		250.803(c) 250.107(a)
EPL Oil & Gas, Inc. G-2015-017	During the course of a BSEE inspection, INCs were issued for allowing personnel to climb over the handrails without fall protection resulting in a threat to the safety of the personnel involved.	\$165,000 10/28/15	
	April 9-15, 2015		250.107(a)(1)
Energy XXI GOM,	During the course of an	\$40,000	250.107(a)

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LLC	accident investigation, it	10/30/15	
(Nabors Drilling Inc.)	was discovered that rig personnel did not follow proper operating	10/00/10	
G-2015-018	procedures. The failure to install a bull plug into the Greene's cup tester during BOP testing resulted in an		
	incident that caused serious damage to equipment.		
	September 13, 2012		
EPL Oil & Gas, Inc.	During the course of an inspection, BSEE	\$25,000	
G-2015-022	inspectors observed the vent failure alarm panel located in the Offshore Installation Manager's office turned off, which rendered it inoperable.		
	October 25, 2012		250.107(a)
DCCOR, LLC	During the course of a BSEE inspection, it was	\$100,000	
P-2014-002	discovered that several safety devices on the facility were bypassed without being properly flagged and monitored by DCOR personnel.	5/21/15	
	April 14, 2013 (4 violations)		250.803(c)(1)
DCCOR, LLC	During the course of a	\$75,000	(/ (/
P-2014-003	BSEE inspection, it was discovered that three safety devices were put into bypass and were not flagged.	2/25/15	
	July 25, 2013 (3 violations)		250.803(c)(1)
DCCOR, LLC P-2014-004	During the course of an inspection, a BSEE inspector found that several safety devices on the facility were bypassed	\$75,000 7/8/15	
	without being properly flagged,and monitored.		
	September 1, 2013 (3 violations)		250.803(c)(1)
Exxon Mobil Corporation	During the course of a BSEE accident investigation it was	\$50,000 8/5/15	
P-2014-006	discovered that there was a crane boom failure and release of hydrochloric acid		250.108 250.401(e)

	solution in the Pacific Ocean. April 25, 2014 (2 violations)		
Exxon Mobil Corporation	During the course of a BSEE accident investigation it was	\$25,000 8/14/15	
P-2014-007	determined that the operator failed to maintain safe operating conditions by allowing gas to migrate into the compressor's crankcase, motor and conduit systems which caused an explosion that resulted in injuries.		
	June 10, 2014		250.107
Total Penalties Paid: 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015			
	42 Cases: \$3,659,	018	

The purpose of publishing the penalties summary is to provide information to the public on violations of special concern in OCS operations and to provide an additional incentive for safe and environmentally sound operations.

JSA	Job Safety Analysis
SCSSV	Surface Controlled Subsurface Safety Valve
SSV	Surface Safety Valve