

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
PACIFIC OCS REGION

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: 31-JAN-2004 TIME: 1410 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Nuevo Energy Company

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR:

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

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

4. LEASE: P00234

AREA: LA LATITUDE:
BLOCK: 6709 LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM: HABITAT

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 0
- 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 Electrical Incident

6. OPERATION:

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

8. CAUSE:

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

9. WATER DEPTH: 290 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 8 MI.

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

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

13. SEA STATE: FT.

14. PICTURES TAKEN: NO

15. STATEMENT TAKEN: NO

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

Platform crew member was in MCC room attempting to transfer power from jet water pump to fire water pump. Breaker did not match door cover linkage, so crew member removed outer switch cover to reset breaker. As he was reinstalling the cover, the outer screw came into contact with a live lead inside the breaker causing an electrical arc. The arc and smoke activated the Halon fire system and shut down the platform.

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

Elongated screw on outer breaker switch cover became misaligned when it was being manually threaded into the breaker assembly and came into contact with a live electrical lead producing an arc.

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

- Incompatible electrical equipment: Breaker switch handle was too short to be properly engaged by outer switch cover.
- Incompatibility of the equipment resulted in the unsafe work practice of opening the breaker panel door and removing the outer switch cover to access and reset breaker. In this instance, the work was performed by a contract roustabout.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The worker did not receive any injuries. The breaker unit was replaced with a more compatible type.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

480 VAC breaker assembly.

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

Housing of breaker was scorched. Internal electrical breaker damage was also suspected.

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$250

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

- Platform electrician changed out the damaged breaker assembly with a properly sized unit. The new breaker can be reset without opening the breaker panel door.
- A safety meeting covering electrical safety was held at the platform.
- Nuevo issued a safety alert to all of their operating facilities covering the incident and restating the company's electrical work policies.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: NO

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

None

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

28. ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION:

04-FEB-2004

MINOR

NO

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

S. J. Shaw /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
PANEL FORMED:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:
OCS REPORT:
THOMAS DUNAWAY

27. OPERATOR REPORT ON FILE: YES

APPROVED
DATE:

13-FEB-2004

