

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

1. OCCURRED

DATE: 27-DEC-2004 TIME: 0250 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Union Oil Company of California

REPRESENTATIVE: George Obey

TELEPHONE: (281) 295-6472

3. LEASE: 00196

AREA: EI LATITUDE:

BLOCK: 32 LONGITUDE:

4. PLATFORM: F PROD

RIG NAME

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

6. TYPE: FIRE
 EXPLOSION
 BLOWOUT
 COLLISION
 INJURY NO. _____
 FATALITY NO. _____
 POLLUTION
 OTHER _____

7. OPERATION: PRODUCTION
 DRILLING
 WORKOVER
 COMPLETION
 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: 20 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 8 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: NE
SPEED: 6 M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: SW
SPEED: 1 M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: 2 FT.

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

Lionel Pitre

CITY: Sugar Land STATE: TX

TELEPHONE: (281) 287-7425

CONTRACTOR:

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

CITY: STATE:

TELEPHONE:

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

At approximately 02:48 hours on December 27, 2004, an alarm was sounded at Unocal's Eugene Island 32 "A" platform. Personnel were alerted of a process equipment upset at their adjacent Eugene Island 32 "F" platform. The 32 "F" platform is unmanned and production process operations are monitored by use of a SCADA system from the 32 "A" platform. A boat was called to transport personnel to the 32 "F" to investigate the cause of the alarm. Upon arrival at Eugene Island 32 "F" platform at 05:45 hours, personnel reported that no pollution was observed originating from the platform. Once onboard it was determined that additional equipment (pumps, containers and hoses) would be needed to recover oil from the decks and sump system. Upon returning to the platform at 07:45 hours to begin clean up operations, personnel observed a slick leaving the platform in a northwest direction. While gathering information to be reported, a (MMS) inspector from the Lafayette District arrived on location. The pollution was reported to the NRC (Case No. 745385) at 08:00 hours; which documented that 75 gallons of light gravity oil was released from the sump tank outlet on the 32 "F" platform. With the platform totally shut in, no instrument gas supply was available to operate the sump pump to prevent oil from carrying over into the gulf. The platform decking was cleaned and the equipment involved in the incident was repaired. The platform was returned back to full production operations at 14:35.

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

The direct cause of the pollution incident was due to a section of wire line wire that had lodged in the water dump valve on the outlet of the (FWKO). The wire caused the valve to stay in the open position allowing all liquids from the (FWKO) to over flow to the skimmer. The SDV on the inlet to the skimmer did not function properly due to a build up of scale and corrosion inside the valve. The LSH on the skimmer performed its design function and shut in the platform. The dump valve on the (FWKO) was replaced and the SDV on the inlet of the skimmer was repaired.

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

Wireline rope left in one of the wells from a previous wireline operation apparently flowed through the production process system and became lodged in the water outlet dump valve of the (FWKO) causing the valve to malfunction.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Incident of Noncompliance (E-100) dated 12-27-04

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

None

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

MMS recommended that the UNCAL operators initiate a regular maintenance program on all valves.

The Lafayette District makes no recommendations to the Office of Safety Management.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

Incident of Non-compliance (E-100) was issued on site to document the pollution incident. The operator was advised to submit a written report addressing the cause of the incident and measures to be implemented to prevent a reoccurrence.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

27-DEC-2004

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Leo Dartez /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: NO

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

FPAusina for ESmith

APPROVED

DATE: 10-FEB-2005

