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

1. OCCURRED
DATE: 12-OCT-2009 TIME: 0630 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: W & T Offshore, Inc.
REPRESENTATIVE: Gautreaux, Antoine
TELEPHONE: (713) 624-7274

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

4. LEASE: G14391
AREA: EC LATITUDE:
BLOCK: 373 LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM: A
RIG NAME:

6. ACTIVITY: X 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
☐ HISTORIC BLOWOUT
☐ UNDERGROUND
☐ SURFACE
☐ DEVERTER
☐ SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES
☐ COLLISION ☐ HISTORIC ☐ >$25K ☐ <=$25K

8. CAUSE:
☐ EQUIPMENT FAILURE
☐ HUMAN ERROR
☐ EXTERNAL DAMAGE
☐ SLIP/TRIP/FALL
☐ WEATHER RELATED
☐ LEAK
☐ UPSET H2O TREATING
☐ OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
☐ OTHER

9. WATER DEPTH: 400 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 113 MI.

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

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

13. SEA STATE: FT.
17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 14 October 2009, operations personnel noticed a temperature increase inside the climate-controlled Petrobras Motor Control Center (MCC) building. The MCC building is not located in a Classified Area. Upon further investigation it was discovered that a fire had occurred inside one of the air conditioner (AC) evaporator enclosures located on top of the MCC building. The date and time of the incident is unknown since the location of the unit is isolated and no one witnessed the fire.

During the operator investigation it was discovered that the drain line from the AC evaporator enclosure on top of the MCC building was routed to the cellar deck and terminated in the fuel gas skid. On 18 September 2009, in an effort to eliminate any oil accumulation in the fuel gas skid when bleeding liquid from the fuel gas meter and associated 5-way manifold, operations personnel installed a 1/4 inch drain line from the bottom of the 5-way manifold directly into the AC evaporator enclosure's 1/2 inch drain line which terminates at the main drain line for the fuel gas skid. This fuel gas 5-way manifold is drained regularly to prevent fluid build up in the meter. Operations personnel mentioned that from time to time they would experience a gas/condensate smell in the MCC building but no one investigated the source of the odor.

On 24 September 2009, Diamond S. Refrigeration Inc. replaced a bad condenser motor, bad contactor and overload. The platform experienced an Emergency Shut Down (ESD) on 12 October 2009 due to inclement weather, evidence of fire damage was found on 14 October 2009 and Diamond S. Refrigeration assessed damages on 18 October 2009. Subsequent to discovering the incident, the drain line from the AC enclosure was routed to a safe location.

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

Gas migrated up through the air conditioner evaporator enclosure's drain line and accumulated inside the enclosure prior to ignition. Due to the severity of the damage caused by the fire, the source of ignition could not be determined but is believed to be a bare wire that made contact with a metal surface causing a spark and igniting the gas.

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

* Failure to trace the drain line prior to making the tie-in.
* Failure to investigate the source of the gas/condensate odor inside the MCC building.
* The use of 1/2 inch stainless steel tubing for the AC evaporator enclosure drain line combined with the hazardous location in which the drain line was routed provided an easy and convenient tie-in point for the fuel gas manifold drain line.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

N/A
21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: NATURE OF DAMAGE:
   Air Conditioner Evaporator Coil, Blower Motor and associated Enclosure
   Fire damage - Destroyed

   ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): $6,404

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:
   The Lake Charles District recommends that the MMS Regional Office of Safety Management (OSM) issue a Safety Alert to heighten industry's awareness of the hazards involved with combining pressure drains with atmospheric drain lines.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:
   G-110 - An unsafe work practice resulted in a significant fire that destroyed one of the MCC building's AC evaporator coil, blower motor and associated enclosure.
   * The drain line from the fuel gas meter 5-way manifold (process source) was tied directly into the domestic AC evaporator enclosure drain line which terminated at the fuel gas skid main drain inlet.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:
   02-NOV-2009

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:
   Marcus Mouton / Royce Buford / Guy Bertrand / Wayne Meaux /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FORMED: NO

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:
   Larry Williamson

   APPROVED
   DATE: 24-NOV-2009
1. SOURCE OF IGNITION: Believed to be a bare wire made contact with a metal surface causing a spark.

2. TYPE OF FUEL: [X] GAS
   [ ] OIL
   [ ] DIESEL
   [ ] CONDENSATE
   [ ] HYDRAULIC
   [ ] OTHER

3. FUEL SOURCE: Gas accumulation inside the AC evaporator enclosure.

4. WERE PRECAUTIONS OR ACTIONS TAKEN TO ISOLATE KNOWN SOURCES OF IGNITION PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT? [NO]

5. TYPE OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT UTILIZED: [ ] HANDHELD
   [ ] WHEELED UNIT
   [ ] FIXED CHEMICAL
   [ ] FIXED WATER
   [X] NONE
   [ ] OTHER