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

1. OCCURRED
   DATE: 23-NOV-2008  TIME: 0335  HOURS

2. OPERATOR: El Paso E&P Company, L.P.
   REPRESENTATIVE: Ashworth, Lisa
   TELEPHONE: (713) 420-7590
   CONTRACTOR:
   REPRESENTATIVE: Richard, JR
   TELEPHONE: (337) 233-5185

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

4. LEASE: G02910
   AREA: EI  LATITUDE:
   BLOCK: 327  LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM: A
   RIG NAME: NABORS POOL 140

6. ACTIVITY: DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION
   EQUIPMENT FAILURE (DOCD/POD)

7. TYPE:
   □ HISTORIC INJURY
   □ REQUIRED EVACUATION 1
     LTA (1-3 days)
     LTA (>3 days)
   □ RW/JT (1-3 days) 1
     RW/JT (>3 days)
   □ Other Injury
   □ PATALITY
   □ POLLUTION
   □ FIRE
   □ EXPLOSION
   □ LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT
     UNDERGROUND
     SURFACE
     DEVERTER
     SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES
   □ COLLISION

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

9. WATER DEPTH: 262 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 78 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: E
    SPEED: 20 M.P.H.

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

13. SEA STATE: 6 FT.
17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

On November 23, 2008, at approximately 0335 hours, on El Paso E&P Company, L.P.'s Lease OCS-G 02910, Eugene Island Block 327 Platform A, utilizing the Nabors Pool Rig 140, a Contract Casing Employee (CCE) was struck on the left side of the head and the left clavicle by a falling joint of 7-5/8" casing. The screw lift nubbin tool backed off when the casing was suspended from the V-door and approximately 20 feet above the rig floor. As the lift nubbin tool remained in the rig elevators, the joint of casing fell back down the V-door striking the CCE. The CCE was rendered temporarily unconscious, and once consciousness was regained he reported pain to his head and shoulder. At approximately 0600 hours, the CCE was transported by medi-vac to the Terrebonne General Hospital where he received stitches to his scalp, and repair of a broken left clavicle. All parties are presently awaiting metallurgy diagnostic test results for the lift nubbin tool and joint of casing.

Update: Diagnostic results received by Lafayette District MMS on January 6, 2009, confirms the lift nubbin tool's connection was most likely the cause for failure.

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

During the casing lifting operation, the lift nubbin tool separated from the casing, resulting in an uncontrolled descent of the casing joint into the V-door. Improper make-up of the lift nubbin tool's connection was most likely the cause for failure.

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

There were several contributing factors to the incident:
(1) Metal wear (loss) on the lift nubbin tool and casing threads may have contributed to the failure.
(2) The lift nubbin tool was cut with non-standard field grade quality threads, and this practice may not be endorsed by the premium thread manufacturers. The manufacturer of the lift nubbin tool being used during the incident cuts their nubbin threads in such a way that the thread interference for sealing pressure is removed. Therefore, this lift nubbin tool is properly made up when the connection shoulders upon the last thread.
(3) The lift nubbin tool required a power torque device to properly engage the threads, but the connection was made up with only a hand torque bar.
(4) A thread compound was reportedly used on the lift nubbin tool's connection, yet the lift nubbin tool's manufacturer specifically recommends against such practice since the lift nubbin tool is designed for a metal-to-metal seal. The size particles found in certain thread compounds may compromise the connection's integrity.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: No property damage

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

The MMS Lafayette District recommends to the MMS Regional Office of Safety Management (OSM) that a Safety Alert be developed addressing the following issues in regards to lift nubbin tools:
* The type of threaded lifting tool to be used is approved by the Lessee/Operating Company's policy, appropriate tool manufacturer, etc.
* Lifting tool threaded connections, especially those being continuously reused, should be gauged for wear as per the thread manufacturer recommendations, Lessee/Operating Company's policy, etc.
* The Lessee/Operating Company should determine if the lifting tool's threaded connection is being cut with non-standard field grade quality threads or cut by a premium thread manufacturer in order to verify the following:
  1) The thread compound to be used on the lifting tool's threaded connection is recommended by the appropriate thread manufacturer.
  2) During the lifting tool's threaded connection make-up, use of the appropriate means of torque and amount of torque make-up to the connection are determined by the appropriate thread manufacturer.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: No

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

No violations were observed during the onsite investigation or during records review process.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

25-NOV-2008

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Gerald Gonzales / Raymond Johnson / Jason Abshire / Douglas Frerich

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FORMED: No

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Elliott Smith

APPROVED

DATE: 21-JAN-2009
INJURY/FATALITY/WITNESS ATTACHMENT

☐ OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE ☐ INJURY
☒ CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE ☐ FATALITY
☐ OTHER _______________________ ☐ WITNESS

NAME:
HOME ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE:
WORK PHONE: TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE: YEARS

EMPLOYED BY:
BUSINESS ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE:
ZIP CODE:

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NAME:
HOME ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE:
WORK PHONE: TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE: YEARS
EMPLOYED BY:
BUSINESS ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE: LA
ZIP CODE:

☐ OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE  ☐ INJURY
☐ CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE  ☐ FATALITY
☒ OTHER _________________________  ☒ WITNESS

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ZIP CODE: