UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
GULF OF MEXICO REGION
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED
   DATE: 27-SEP-2011  TIME: 2320  HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Petrobras America Inc.
   REPRESENTATIVE: Gomez, Rebecca
   TELEPHONE: (713) 808-3145
   CONTRACTOR: Ensco Offshore Co.
   REPRESENTATIVE: Horricks, Thomas
   TELEPHONE: (281) 560-8543

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

4. LEASE: G16965
   AREA: WR  LATITUDE:
   BLOCK: 206  LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM:
   RIG NAME: PRIDE DEEP OCEAN MENDOCINO

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
   PATLITY
   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: 8149 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 166 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: N
    SPEED: 1 M.P.H.

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

13. SEA STATE: 1 FT.
17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 27 September 2011 at approximately 11:14 PM, while in the process of running the BOP on 21-1/4" marine riser for the Cascade #4 well, a joint of riser slipped out of the Vetco Gray Riser Handling Tool, (RHT). The riser joint dropped a total of 61 feet to the rig floor, crushing the spider and landing on top of the previous joint. Everyone was clear of the work area so there were injuries associated with the incident.

The post-accident investigation determined that the mechanical lock, designed to prevent the riser from coming unlatched from the RHT, was actually pinned in the unlock position.

The employee did not realize that the mechanical lock was not in the "locked" position before inserting the pin and giving the approval to make the lift. The mechanical lock could not engage because the RHT was not properly seated in the riser.

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

The employee failed to realize the mechanical lock was in the unlocked position when he gave approval to make the lift, resulting in the mechanical lock not engaging; thus, allowing the riser to become unlatched from the RHT.

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

*Although the JSA covered making sure that RHT was properly engaged and that the safety latch was in place before trying to move the riser, actual verification was not done prior to making the lift.

*ENSCO's Level III procedure made no mention of the mechanical lock; only the hydraulic lock which engages the RHT but does not lock it onto the riser.

*No testing of the seals was required either by the ENSCO's Level III procedure or by the OEM's pre-run checklist.

*Neither the JSA nor the procedure covered the importance of making sure the riser was properly seated in the RHT before proceeding with the task.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

n/a

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:                  NATURE OF DAMAGE:
    2 joints of riser                  crushed riser
    riser cart                        riser cart arm broken
    spider                            crushed spider

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): $600,000
22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENT NARRATIVE:
Due to the specific nature of this incident, the Houma District has no
recommendations to the Regional Office.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

A G-110 warning Incident of Non Compliance was issued on December 6, 2011, for
failure to work in a safe and workmanlike manner.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:
18-NOV-2011

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:
Cedric Bernard / Jeramie Liner /
James Richard /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
PANEL FORMED: NO

28. ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION:
18-NOV-2011 MINOR

27. OPERATOR REPORT ON FILE:
YES

APPROVED
DATE: 08-DEC-2011

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:
Bryan A. Domangue