



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

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Memorandum

To: Nicholas Fraiche, Panel Chair
Lars Herbst, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director
Doug Morris, Chief, Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs

From: Scott A. Angelle, Director

Subject: Review of Panel Report for Walker Ridge 469

I have reviewed the Panel report *Investigation of December 2, 2017 Fatality Petrobras 10000 Drillship, Lease OCS-16997, Walker Ridge Area – Block 469*. The report presents a number of findings and conclusions as a result of the investigation into the proactive work being done on the drillship to prepare for future well work. This work included picking up and racking back drill pipe on the auxiliary drill floor. The fatality occurred when a floorhand was pinned between the Pipe Handling Catwalk Machine's skate loading platform arm and a stanchion post on the auxiliary drill floor. I thank the Panel for its work, and I accept the report.

The Panel's investigation and their findings underscore the importance of placing safety first in every job being undertaken on a facility – no matter how routine. The report also draws attention to the importance of following and enforcing safety rules of the rig and the need for appropriate training, familiarity and experience with the equipment on the drillship. This is particularly important when a crew is reporting to the first shift of their hitch. Finally, with the fatal incident occurring over ten hours into the crew's shift, the report underscores the importance of not becoming complacent while performing a repetitive job.

I am directing the Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs (OORP), working with the Regional Directors and appropriate staff, to:

- issue a safety bulletin regarding the most significant findings of the Panel investigation and provide recommendations for preventing a similar incident from occurring.

I am directing the Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Director to:

- increase the awareness of BSEE inspection staff of possible inadequacies of identification and understanding of restricted access and safe zones; and of the hazards that could arise from limited clearance between skates and other

equipment or objects on a drill floor. I request that a work plan with milestones for this directed action be submitted to me and the Chief, Safety and Incident Investigations Division (SIID) within 30 days of this memorandum.

- develop a work plan with milestones for conducting risk-based inspections of drill floor restricted access and safe zones. Please submit the plan to me and the Chief, SIID within 30 days of this memorandum.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding what my expectations are. I again thank the Panel for its effort in this investigation and report development.