



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

December 30, 2019

Memorandum

To: Michael Idziorek, Panel Chair
Lars Herbst, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director
Stacey Noem, Chief (Acting), Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs

From: Scott A. Angelle, Director

Subject: Review of Panel Report for Mississippi Canyon Block 209

I have reviewed the Panel report *Investigation of October 11, 2017 Flowline Jumper Failure Lease OCS-G 24055, Mississippi Canyon Block 209 Gulf of Mexico Region, New Orleans District*. The report presents findings and conclusions arising from the release of approximately 16,000 bbls of oil into the Gulf of Mexico after the failure of a subsea wellhead jumper. I thank the Panel for its work, accept the report and am directing that follow-up actions be taken in response to the Panel findings.

The Panel's recommendations underscore the importance that the protection of the environment is a key aspect of responsible exploration, development and production of our natural resources. The recommendations also draw attention to the importance of continued collaboration between BSEE and Operators to develop effective subsea leak detection systems.

I direct the Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs (OORP), in collaboration with the Gulf of Mexico Regional staff, to:

- Utilize the Bureau's Houston Engineering Technology Center to evaluate current industry best practices for jumper design and construction.
- Report on the status of improvements made to subsea leak detection strategies implemented as a result of collaborative work between BSEE and Operators.
- Report on the current revisions being made to 30 CFR 250 Subpart J and the status of incorporating API RP 1111 *Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Offshore Hydrocarbon Pipelines* into those revisions.

I direct the Office of Safety Management, Gulf of Mexico Region to:

- Review and make a recommendation regarding the inclusion of subsea leak detection in an operator's Safety and Environmental Management System (SEMS).

I request that timelines for the completion of the above items be provided to me in writing within two weeks. Please consult and coordinate with the panel members during this process.

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

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