

Gulf of Mexico Region

Spills ≥ 50 Barrels (2,100 gallons) – 2012 (as of 18-Jan-2013)

January 9, 2012 – Eni US Operating Co. Inc.

Pollution:	475 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	None
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	None
Chemicals:	475 bbl Calcium chloride	Event:	Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	Accident Incident Report only	Activity:	Development/Production
Lease:	G16647	Operation:	Completion
Area:	Mississippi Canyon	Cause:	Equipment Failure
Block:	772	Distance to Shore:	123 miles
Rig:	T.O. Deepwater Pathfinder	Water Depth:	5,719 feet

Remarks: While bringing thruster #3 on line after maintenance, lost power to 3 forward thrusters. Unable to maintain station. Drifted 53 meters off location. Activated Emergency Disconnect System - EDS. 5-7/8 inch drill pipe was sheared. +/- 8200' drill pipe hung off. 475 Barrels of calcium chloride was released when the LMRP disconnected from the BOP. Calcium chloride is an allowed discharge fluid from the recognized discharge port on the rig. However, due to the disconnect, the fluid was discharged at 5,718 ft. below the surface of the water.

NRC Report: [999948](#)

February 4, 2012 – Chevron, U.S.A. Inc.

Pollution:	62 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	Synthetic-based mud (62 bbl synthetic based fluids in 100 bbl SBM)
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Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	None
Chemicals:	None	Event:	Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	2010 Form Completed 20-Jun-2012	Activity:	Exploration
Lease:	G16942	Operation:	Drilling
Area:	Walker Ridge	Causes:	Human Error
Block:	29	Distance to Shore:	139 miles
Rig:	T.O. Discoverer India	Water Depth:	5,193 feet

Remarks: On February 4, 2012, an employee was lining up to go overboard with seawater. A valve misaligned with the mud pits caused approximately 100 barrels of Synthetic Oil Based Mud (62 barrels base) to be pumped into the Gulf of Mexico.

Accident Investigation Report: [Form 2010, 4-Feb-2012, WR 29](#)

NRC Report: [1002141](#)

February 19, 2012 – Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Pollution:	849 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	None
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	None
Chemicals:	849 bbl Calcium Chloride	Event:	Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	2010 Form Completed 14-Jun-2012	Activity:	Development/Production
Lease:	G14205	Operation:	Completion
Area:	East Breaks	Causes:	Human Error
Block:	602	Distance to Shore:	142 miles

Platform:	ENSCO 8500	Water Depth:	3,675 feet
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Remarks: The EB 602 SS Well 014 BP01 was completed to the approved depth, cased, and displaced with 9.0 CaCl₂ completion fluids. A wireline was across the subsea BOP stack with logging tools in the well. An unintentional auto shear/EDS (Emergency Disconnect Sequence) activated, cutting wireline with the casing shears, the blind shear rams closed, the LMRP disconnected, and the boost line valves actuated to the open position. The logging tools and severed wireline dropped to the bottom of the well. The riser disconnect caused the discharge of 849 barrels of completion fluid to sea. The rig re-latched the LMRP to the BOP stack 7 hours after the EDS event. The blind shear rams were opened to verify that the well was still static and then the blind shear rams were closed. (Negative pressure test was successfully performed on 12 Feb 2012.) The original volume lost was reported as 2075 bbl, however, Anadarko reported a corrected spill volume of 849 bbl due to recovery of some of the CaCl₂ when they displaced the riser.

Accident Investigation Report: [Form 2010, 19-Feb-2012, EB 602](#)

NRC Report: [1003427](#)

June 05, 2012 – Energy XXI GOM, LLC

Pollution:	50 bbl	Crude Oil/Condensate:	None
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	None
Chemicals:	50 bbl methanol	Event:	Fire/Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	Accident Incident Report only	Activity:	Development/Production
Lease:	00016	Operation:	Production
Area:	West Delta	Causes:	Lightning strike
Block:	31	Distance to Shore:	8 miles
Platform/Rig:	Platform L	Water Depth:	53 feet

Remarks: Lightning struck a 4 ft. x 6 ft. x 6 ft. fixed steel methanol storage tank causing significant damage to the lid of the tank and igniting the methanol. The eight personnel

onboard the facility ESD'd the platform and were picked up at the boat landing by a field vessel. Two field vessels focused their water cannons on the tank for approximately twenty to thirty minutes ensuring that the fire was extinguished and the area cooled prior to re-boarding the facility. The methanol tank alone was damaged with no other damages to the facility. An estimated fifty gallons of methanol was released and was reported to the NRC.

NRC Report: [1013630](#)

November 2, 2012 – Noble Energy, Inc.

Pollution:	96 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	None
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	96 bbl synthetic base fluid
Chemicals:	None	Event:	Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	Under Investigation	Activity:	Exploration
Lease:	G28022	Operation:	Drilling
Area:	Mississippi Canyon	Causes:	Under Investigation
Block:	698	Distance to Shore:	79 miles
Platform/Rig:	ENSCO 8501	Water Depth:	11,514 feet

Remarks: At 23:30 hrs a discoloration was noticed in water. At this time the rig crew was attempting to bring up Base oil from the column tank but was not getting any returns in surface pit. Lineup was checked out and a second attempt to pump up base oil at 00:15 hrs was made with the same results - no returns to the surface pit. Further investigation found a 6-inch fiberglass line under the rig had parted in a coupling connection. The discovery of the parted line occurred around 01:00 hrs on 11-3-2012.

NRC Report: [1029440](#)

November 16, 2012 – Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations, LLC.

Pollution:	480 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	480 bbl crude oil
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	None
Chemicals:	None	Event:	Fatality(3)/Injury(3)/Fire/ Explosion/Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	Under Investigation	Activity:	Development/Production
Lease:	00367	Operation:	Construction
Area:	West Delta	Causes:	Under Investigation
Block:	32	Distance to Shore:	9 miles
Platform/Rig:	Platform E	Water Depth:	63 feet

Remarks: At 8:45 am a explosion occurred on the platform. There were 3 fatalities and several injuries. A panel investigation is being conducted.

December 1, 2012 – Shell Offshore Inc.

Pollution:	220.8 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	None
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	None
Chemicals:	220.8 bbl Asphaltene inhibitor	Event:	Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	Accident/Incident Report only	Activity:	Development/Production
Lease:	G15565	Operation:	Production
Area:	Green Canyon	Causes:	Equipment Failure
Block:	248	Distance to Shore:	

Platform/Rig:	Subsea line near the skid manifold	Water Depth:	
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Remarks: In preparation of unloading the Glider 3 well, the Brutus platform pumped asphaltene inhibitor to the subsea wellhead. Asphaltene inhibitor was released to the Gulf due to the subsea chemical line parting by the skid manifold on the seafloor. There were 2 leaks found and isolated in the umbilical termination header. Chemical release was minimized by keeping the prevention of a release and safety as top priorities during leak diagnostics and isolation work.

NRC Report: [1032175](#)

December 18, 2012 – Chevron U.S.A Inc.

Pollution:	291.08 bbl	Crude Oil/ Condensate:	None
Refined Petroleum:	None	Synthetic Oil Fluids*:	257.94 bbl synthetic base fluid (60%) in 429.9 bbl total SBM
Chemicals:	33.14 bbl BOP control fluid	Event:	Pollution
MMS Investigation Report:	Accident/Incident Report only	Activity:	Development/Production
Lease:	G22367	Operation:	Drilling
Area:	Keathley Canyon	Causes:	Equipment Failure
Block:	736	Distance to Shore:	240 miles
Platform/Rig:	T.O. DISCOVERER INDIA	Water Depth:	6500 feet

Remarks: A leak of synthetic based mud developed between the LMRP (Lower Marine Riser Package) and the BOP (Blowout Preventer). The Annular Preventer on the LMRP was closed, as well as the Middle Variable Pipe Ram. This action stopped the leak of Synthetic Based Mud. The estimated volume of Synthetic Based Mud released is 429.9 barrels, 21% of which is water (90.28 bbls), 60% base oil (257.94 bbls), and 20% solids. Over the course of the event, an estimated 1,392 gallons of BOP control fluid was released into the Gulf.

NRC Report: [1033668](#)

One Barrel (bbl) Equals 42 U.S. Gallons (gal)

U.S. Coast Guard Spill Size Categories	MINOR	MEDIUM	MAJOR
	Less than 238 barrels (Less than 10,000 gallons)	238 to 2,380 barrels (10,000 to 99,999 gallons)	2,381 barrels and more (100,000 gallons and more)
Size Categories are for coastal and offshore waters and are based solely on spill volume.			

Synthetic Oil Fluids*: In deepwater drilling, synthetic-based muds (SBM's) are preferred over petroleum oil-based muds (OBM's) due to the SBM's superior performance properties. The synthetic oils used in SBM's are relatively non-toxic to the marine environment and have the potential to biodegrade.

60%:** Indicates that for a synthetic-based mud release, the exact percentage of volume of synthetic base oil to total volume of mud released was not available and 60% was used as a reasonable approximation.

75%*:** Indicates that for an oil-based mud release, the exact percentage of volume of base oil to total volume of mud released was not available and 75% was used as a reasonable approximation. Diesel is assumed to be the base oil in OBM unless otherwise specified.