UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
GULF OF MEXICO REGION

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED
DATE: 27-SEP-2012 TIME: 0130 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Black Elk Energy Offshore Operating
REPRESENTATIVE:

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

4. LEASE: G03241
AREA: HI LATITUDE:
BLOCK: A 443 LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM: A
RIG NAME: NABORS SUPER SUNDOWNER XXI

6. ACTIVITY: [ ] EXPLORATION (POE) [X] DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION (DOCD/POD)

7. TYPE:
[X] HISTORIC INJURY

8. CAUSE:
[X] EQUIPMENT FAILURE

9. WATER DEPTH: 182 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 81 MI.

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

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

13. SEA STATE: FT.

For Public Release

- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
- CRANE
- OTHER LIFTING DEVICE
- DAMAGED/DISABLED SAFETY SYS.
- INCIDENT >$25K
- H2S/15MIN./20PPM
- REQUIRED MUSTER
- SHUTDOWN FROM GAS RELEASE
- OTHER

EV2010R 20-NOV-2012
On 27 September 2012, a well control incident occurred at HI A 443. At the time of the incident, the Nabors Sundowner platform rig was on location contracted for recompletion work by Black Elk Energy. As the rig was pulling 2 7/8" tubing out of the well, the well started flowing and wellbore fluids spewed out to a height of 30-40 feet in the air. As the well was flowing, well control procedures called for the stabbing of the Texas Iron Works (TIW) valve into the 2 7/8" tubing by using the hydraulic hoist on the rig floor; however, the hoist was unavailable at the time because it was being used to lower 2 7/8" tubing down the V-door. This resulted in an uncontrollable timed event that subsequently mandated the activation for shearing the 2 7/8" tubing with the shear rams in order to shut the well in. An estimated 9.34 gallons of oil was determined to have entered the Gulf waters. Three floor hands sustained injuries and were sent to shore for treatment; all returned to full duty in less than three days.

Investigation revealed that the probable cause of the incident is that the Lessee failed to maintain the proper mud weight of 9 ppg to control the well. The Mud Engineer noticed condensate or oil mixed with the returns in the trip-tank but failed to stop the operation or re-weigh the mud entering the well as 2 7/8" tubing was being pulled.

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

The Lessee failed to maintain proper weight of well control fluid.

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

1. The Mud Engineer failed to stop the operation when he noticed oil in the returns.

2. The TIW was not in the ready state to be stabbed due to the unavailability of the hoist.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Lessee needs to do a better job of training people on the rig floor, especially roughnecks need to know their duties during a well control event. The Lessee needs to have a TIW of the right size and the correct lifting equipment on the rig floor. The Lessee should conduct well control drills with all crews at the beginning of each tour. Operator should maintain proper fluid weight at all times to overcome downhole pressure.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: NATURE OF DAMAGE:

2 7/8" tubing that was cut 1 joint of 2 7/8" tubing is going to junk

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): $300
22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:
The Lake Jackson District makes no recommendations to the Agency at this time.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

The Loss of Well Control caused oil to go into the Gulf of Mexico. Several INCs were written after this event. An E-100 INC was written because the Lessee failed to prevent unauthorized discharge of pollutants into offshore waters. A W-102 was written because of failure to instruct rig personnel on the safety requirements of the operations they were performing. A G-802 was written because of failure to conduct operations according to the approved permit. A W-138 was written because the safety valve was not readily available for insertion into the work string. A G-110 was written because the Lessee failed to perform all operations in a safe and workmanlike manner and provide for the preservation and consideration of property and the environment.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

02-OCT-2012

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

James Holmes / Bobby Carrillo /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FORMED: NO

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

John McCarroll

APPROVED DATE: 20-NOV-2012
BLOWOUT ATTACHMENT

1. WELL NAME: A002  WELL NO.: 427094035801  LEASE: G03241

2. OPERATION: [ ] DRILLING  [ ] COMPLETION  [X] WORKOVER  [ ] PRODUCTION

3. SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS IN PROGRESS?  NO

4. FLUID TYPE: SEAWATER  WEIGHT: 8.8 PPG

5. BOP STACK CONFIGURATION:
   SIZE: 11 IN
   PRESS RATING: PSI

6. BOP STACK - LAST TEST DATE PRIOR TO INCIDENT: 25-SEP-2012  PRESSURE: PSI

7. LAST CASING STRING SET:
   FT  SIZE: IN

8. SIZE OF DRILLING/WORKOVER STRING IN HOLE:

9. KICK SIZE: 10 BBLs

10. FLUID KILL WEIGHT:

11. INITIAL S.I.C.P.:

12. S.I.D.P./W.S.P.:

13. PRIOR HOLE PROBLEMS?  NO

14. WELL CONTROL EQUIPMENT INITIALLY ACTIVATED:
   [ ] ANNULAR BOP  [ ] SCSSV
   [ ] PIPE  [ ] SSV
   [ ] BLIND  [ ] OTHER  [X] BLIND SHEAR

15. EVACUATION:  YES

16. DIVERTER SYSTEM VALVE SIZE:
   LINE SIZE:
   [X] SINGLE SPOOL  [ ] DUAL SPOOL

17. WAS WELL DIVERTED?  NO

18. BOTTOM HOLE ASSEMBLY:

19. DRILLING DEPTH:

20. DATE LAST FORMATION INTEGRITY TEST:

21. SSSV TYPE:

22. TREE: ON  [ ] OFF  [X]

23. SURFACE SAFETY EQUIPMENT IN SERVICE?  NO

24. WELL TD:
   TVD  MD

25. OPEN PERF?  YES

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EV2010R  20-NOV-2012
OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE

OTHER

INJURY

FATALITY

WITNESS

NAME:
HOME ADDRESS: CITY:
WORK PHONE: STATE:

TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE: YEARS

EMPLOYED BY:
BUSINESS ADDRESS:
CITY: STATE:

ZIP CODE: