



Forums on Offshore Drilling

Offshore Drilling Workplace Safety

Santa Barbara, California

August 24, 2010



Purpose of the Forums

The current suspension of deepwater drilling and permitting is in effect until November 30, 2010, or until such earlier time as the Secretary determines that deepwater drilling operations can proceed safely with robust health and environmental protections in place.

Secretary Salazar directed BOEM to collect public and expert input about the following three issues pertaining to deepwater drilling activities:

1. Drilling and workplace safety.
2. Wild well intervention and containment techniques.
3. Oil spill response capabilities for offshore drilling and production facilities.

A purpose of the forums is to identify whether any modifications to the scope or duration of the deepwater drilling suspensions is warranted, based on the risks associated with specific types of operations.

We want to hear from you. Please fill out a comment card or submit your comments at www.BOEMRE.gov/forums

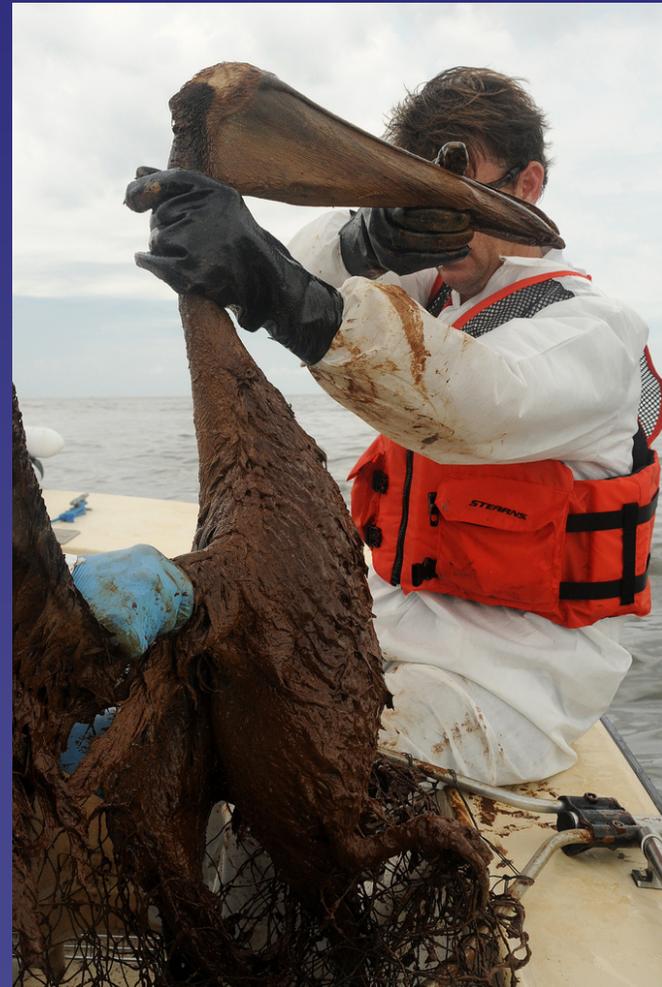


The Importance of Offshore Drilling

- Tens of thousands of workers are employed in the offshore oil and gas industry.
- Domestic energy production is important to the health of the economy, energy independence and national security.
- However, we must ensure that offshore drilling is conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

The Importance of Drilling Safety: What is at Risk?

- 11 rig workers died in the Macondo well blowout and fire.
- The Deepwater Horizon oil spill has had a dramatic effect on the ocean and coastal environments in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Hundreds of miles of shoreline and wetlands have been affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- The Deepwater Horizon oil spill also has had a major impact on the fishing, shrimping, tourism, commercial retail and other industries.
- While the full causes of the Deepwater Horizon spill remain unknown, human error may have played a role.



Personnel Accountability and Operational Safety

- Department of Interior investigation findings and reports indicate that unsafe offshore drilling operations often result from human error.
- The Department is currently developing a rule that would require operators on the OCS to adopt a comprehensive, systems-based approach to safety and environmental management that incorporates best practices from around the globe.
- We are interested in hearing your ideas about improving personnel accountability procedures and ensuring operational safety.





The April 30, 2010 BOEM – USCG Safety Alert

- Immediately following the Deepwater Horizon incident, BOEM and USCG issued a joint safety alert recommending that operators and drilling contractors adopt the following workplace safety measures:
 - Review all emergency shutdown and dynamic positioning procedures that interface with emergency control operations.
 - Inspect lifesaving and firefighting equipment for compliance with federal requirements.
 - Ensure that all crew members are familiar with emergency/firefighting equipment, as well as participate in an abandon ship drill.
 - Exercise emergency power equipment to ensure proper operation.
 - Ensure that all personnel involved in well operations are properly trained and capable of performing their tasks under both normal drilling and emergency well control operations.



Current Personnel Training Requirements: 30 CFR 250 Subpart O

- The current regulations require each lessee to develop and implement a training plan that includes procedures for:
 1. Training employees in well control or production safety;
 2. Evaluating the training programs of contractors;
 3. Verifying that all personnel engaged in well control or production safety operations can perform their assigned duties;
 4. Assessing the training needs of employees on a periodic basis;
 5. Recordkeeping and documentation; and
 6. Internal audit.
- BOEM has the authority to periodically assess lessees' training programs through a training system audit, interviews or testing of personnel.
- If BOEM determines that a lessee's training program is not in compliance, it may initiate one or more enforcement actions, such as issuing an Incident of Non-Compliance or assessing civil / criminal penalties.



Additional Safety Training and Certification Requirements

- What additional safety training requirements are necessary for drilling rig personnel?
- Should there be a requirement for independent or more frequent certification and testing of personnel and safety systems?
- How can we promote a greater culture of safety in offshore drilling?



Today's Panels

- Panel I:
 - *Brenda Kelly*, Director, Accreditation & Certification, International Association of Drilling Contractors
 - *Dan Gremaud*, Safety & Training Specialist, Nabors Well Services
 - *Earl Piermattei*, Senior Engineer, Ben C Gerwick Inc. Consulting Engineers
 - *Yarko "JJ" Sos*, Check-6 Inc.

- Panel II:
 - *Linda Krop*, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center
 - *Keith Wenal*, Health and Environmental Safety Manager, Venoco Inc.
 - *Rob Hurley*, Principal Consultant, Hurley Environmental, Safety, Management Company
 - *Mark Steinhilber*, Senior Process Safety Engineer, Supervisor, Mineral Resources Management Division, California State Lands Commission

- Panel III:
 - *Abel Maldonado*, Lieutenant Governor of California
 - *Helene Schneider*, Mayor of Santa Barbara
 - *Lois Capps*, U.S. Congresswoman for the 23rd District of California
 - *Margaret Connell*, Mayor Pro Tempore for Goleta City
 - *Janet Wolf*, Chair of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors



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