

**Vastar Resources, Inc.**  
**Deepwater Horizon**  
**BOP Stack Design**  
**Technical Position Paper**

**Issue:** BOP Stack Design  
**Date:** September 1, 2000  
**Discipline:** Engineering, Subsea, and Drilling Systems  
**Responsible:** Dick Metcalf & Dan M. Welch - *Vastar*

5094  
 Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Worldwide Court  
 Reporters, Inc.

**Issue:**  
 Overall design of the BOP Stack for the Deepwater Horizon.

**Decision:**  
 The BOP Stack most suited for this application is a Cameron TL Guidelineless, 18-3/4" 15K stack rated for 10,000 ft water depth.

1) Stack configuration:

**BOP Capabilities for Deepwater Horizon**

Well Control Capabilities	Capability
1. Close on open hole	Yes
2. Close annular and circulate out kick:	Yes
a. Bleed, bullhead or lubricate wellbore	Yes
b. Circulate out both choke and kill line simultaneously	Yes
c. Flush or circulate out trapped gas below upper annular	No
d. Flush or circulate out trapped gas below lower annular	Yes
3. Strip pipe:	Yes
a. Annular stripping	Yes
b. Annular to annular	No
c. Annular to ram (not recommended with VBRs)	Yes
d. Ram to ram (not recommended with VBRs)	Yes
4. Hang-off drill pipe and circulate out kick	Yes
a. Bleed or bullhead wellbore	Yes
b. Lubricate wellbore	Yes
c. Circulate out both choke and kill lines simultaneously *	Yes
5. Shear drill pipe or disconnect drill pipe if severe weather situation	Yes
a. Circulate well after shear or drill pipe disconnect	Yes
b. Circulate across stack between shear and hang-off rams	Yes
c. Bleed or bullhead wellbore below hang-off rams	Yes
d. Circulate stack or lubricate wellbore below hang-off ram	Yes
6. Outlet between annulars to expedite removal of trapped gas	No
7. Deepwater: Hung-off	
Circulate across stack to remove possible gas	Yes
a. Above hang-off	Yes

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b. Below hang-off	Yes
8. Outlet below bottom preventer to expedite pressure test of bottom ram	Yes
9. Hang off on upper VBR and shear drill pipe on tube	Yes
10. Accessibility to change out primary annular	Fair
11. Measurement from top hang off ram to bottom of SBR	93"

- In hang off position, it is not recommended to routinely circulate up kill line due to possible erosion in #1 Master Ram outlet

### Lower Stack Configuration (Bottom to Top) :

#### Vetco SHD H-4 Connector 18-3/4" 15,000 psi WP ( See TPP for WH Connector)

Operating pressure: 1,500 – 3,000 psi  
 Latch volume: 7.37 gal.  
 Unlatch volume: 9.9 gal.  
 Secondary volume: 14.18 gal.

Wellhead gasket release to ROV Panel  
 Wellhead connector unlatch to ROV Panel  
 Pilot operated check valve to ROV Panel

#### TL BOP, Double, 18-3/4" 15,000 psi WP with ST-Locks and sequence valves

Operating pressure: 1,500 – 3,000 psi  
 Close volume: 24.3 gal. Per cavity  
 Open volume: 22.4 gal. Per cavity  
 ST- lock volume: 3.4 gal. Per lock

Lower ram cavity: 5 – 1/2" pipe rams  
 Upper ram cavity: 3-1/2" - 6-5/8" Variable Rams  
 Lower kill outlet: MCS Marine Choke and Kill Target Valve,  
 3-1/16" 15,000 psi WP  
 Open volume: .90 gal.  
 Close volume: .94 gal (failsafe assist)  
 Lower inner and outer kill valve  
 Failsafe close panel 1

Lower choke outlet: Blank

Upper kill outlet: P/T Sensor  
 To Riser Control Box

Upper choke outlet: MCS Marine Choke and Kill Target Valve  
 3-1/16" 15,000 psi WP  
 Open volume: .90 gal.  
 Close volume: .94 gal. (failsafe assist)  
 Lower inner and outer choke valve  
 Failsafe close panel 2

#### TL BOP, Single, 18-3/4" 15,000 psi WP with ST-Locks and sequence valves

Operating pressure: 1,500-3,000 psi  
 Close volume: 24.3 gal.  
 Open volume: 22.4 gal.  
 Ram cavity: 3-1/2" – 6-5/8" Variable Rams  
 Kill outlet: Blank

Choke outlet: MCS Marine Choke and Kill Target Valve  
 3-1/16" 15,000 psi WP  
 Open volume: .90 gal.  
 Close volume: .94 gal. (failsafe assist)  
 Upper inner and outer choke valve  
 Failsafe close panel 3

#### TL BOP, Double, 18-3/4" 15,000 psi WP with ST-Locks and sequence valves

Operating pressure: 1,500 – 3,000 psi  
 Close volume: Casing shear 69.40 gal.  
 Close volume: Blind shear 24.30 gal.  
 Open volume: Casing shear 65.20 gal.

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Open volume: Blind shear 22.40 gal.  
Lower ram cavity: Casing shear rams ( NO ST-Locks)  
To High Pressure Casing Shear Failsafe Close Panel 4  
Upper ram cavity: Shearing blind rams  
To High Pressure Shear Failsafe Panel 5  
To ROV Panel  
Lower kill outlet: Blank  
Lower choke outlet: Blank  
Upper kill outlet: MCS Marine Choke and Kill Target Valve  
3-1/16" 15,000 psi WP  
Open volume: .90 gal.  
Close volume: .94 gal. (failsafe assist)  
Upper inner and outer kill valves  
To failsafe close panel 6  
Upper choke outlet: Blank  
Reentry Mandrel, 18-3/4" 15,000 psi WP

**Deadman Panel (See TPP Deadman System)**  
Hydraulic accumulator supplied system for closing in well

**ROV Panel (See TPP ROV Panel)**  
Provide ROV access to the following:  
WH POCV Vent  
Accumulator Relief Valve Isolation  
Hydrate Remediation Injection – Wellhead Connector  
Hotline Bypass (B & Y)  
Accumulator Dump (LMRP & Stack)  
Riser Connector Unlatch  
Riser Connector Gasket Release  
Wellhead Connector Unlatch  
Wellhead Connector Gasket Release  
Ram ST Lock  
C/K Connector Unlatch  
SBR Close

**Failsafe panels**  
Failsafe panels provide relief valves to ensure over-pressure of the accumulator when the BOP- Stack is retrieved from deep water.

### Lower Marine Riser Package Configuration (bottom to top):

**Cameron HC Collet Connector, 18-3/4" – 15,000 psi WP**  
Operating pressure: 1,500 – 3,000 psi  
Latch volume: 14.90 gal.  
Unlatch volume: 18.50 gal.  
Secondary volume: 18.50 gal.  
Gasket release to LMRP ROV panel  
Primary and Secondary Unlatch to LMRP ROV panel  
**DL Annular, Dual, 18-3/4" – 10,000 psi WP**  
Operating pressure: 1,500 – 3,000 psi each annular  
Close volume: 51.00 gal each annular  
Open volume: 45.10 gal each annular  
3-1/16" – 15,000 psi outlets below annular packers  
Lower outlet: MCS Marine Choke and Kill Target Valve  
Operating Pressure: 1,500 – 3,000 psi  
Close Volume: .90 gal  
Open volume: .94 gal (failsafe assist)

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Upper outlet: Inner and outer bleed valves  
Blank

## MCS Marine Choke and Kill Isolation Valves, 3-1/16" - 15,000 psi WP

Operating Pressure: 1,500 - 3,000psi  
Open volume: .90 gal  
Close volume: .94 gal (failsafe assist)

## Choke and Kill Mini Connectors, 3-1/16" - 15,000 psi WP

Operating pressure: 1,500 - 3,000 psi  
Latch volume: 1.50 gal.  
Unlatch volume: 2.00 gal.  
Secondary volume: 2.00 gal.

## Oilstate Flex Joint, 1 1/4" - 5,000 psi WP

Operating Pressure: 1,500 - 3,000 psi.  
Open volume: .90 gal  
Close volume: .94 gal (failsafe assist)

## FCS Mud Boost Valve With DF Actuator

Operating pressure: 1,500 - 3,000 psi  
Open Volume: .90 gal  
Close volume: .94 gal (failsafe assist)

## Riser Termination Adapter

Provides Riser Connection Interface, and C/K kick-outs.

## Hydraulic Conduit Package

Controls the flow of hydraulic fluid from the riser mounted conduit or hot line.

- 2) **BOP Stack Frame:**  
The areas of consideration in designing the BOP frame are stack weight, hang off weight during lifting, side loads incurred during stabilization, and side impact loads.  
When the BOP is transported from storage to the moonpool it will be supported at its upper and lower frame. This will transmit the weight of the entire BOP stack through the frame which attaches to the BOP at the flanged end of the upper double ram BOP and at the top of the Riser Connector. When lifting the BOP stack, the load is transmitted through four pad eyes located at the top of the upper frame. The pad eyes will transmit the weight of the entire stack and both frames. The upper frame attaches to the stack at the top of the Riser Connector.  
Guide Spears located at two corners of the frame are used as handles to stabilize the BOP stack during lifting. These transmit the side loads into the frame.  
Bumper rails are located along the corners on the sides of the frame. The bumper rails are designed to absorb side impacts occurring during transport.
- 3) **P/T Sensors:**  
The BOP stack has two P/T sensors. Upper sensor is located below choke isolation valve.  
The lower sensor is located on kill outlet of number 2 BOP cavity.
- 4) **Tubing Hanger Orientation Pin (capability):**  
The BOP control system has two spare hydraulic functions designated for a Tubing Hanger Orientation Pin. For future completion activities, a hydraulically actuated pin can be installed to provide the means for orientation of the tubing hanger and sub-sea tree.
- 5) **Hydraulic Control system:**  
This system has been designed especially for the particular needs of a dynamically positioned vessel. The BOP Control System is an Electro-Hydraulic or Multiplexed (MUX) control system. This means that BOP function commands are transmitted electronically to the subsea pods via armored power and signal cables which run from the main control unit to the subsea pods. Hydraulic supply is provided via a combination of subsea and surface accumulators and a rigid conduit line. The basis of reliability of the system is the redundancy encompassed between the Driller's Panel, Toolpusher's Panel, and the Central Control Unit. Both the Toolpusher's and Driller's control panels are independent of each other. For example, if the Toolpusher's Panel is damaged or inoperative, commands may be issued from the Driller's Panel. The subsea control pods are redundant in that there are two (2) identical pods on the stack, which work independent of each other.

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The control system has been designed to applicable API and ABS (CDS) requirements. The system is designed for not only safe and redundant operation during normal drilling and potential well control events, but also incorporates a number of safeguards for significant unplanned events. They are;

### Loss of Power/Hydraulics:

This could occur due to massive failure or parting of the drilling riser above the LMRP and below the upper flex joint, which would render control by the subsea pods ineffective. This condition could also be caused by fire and/or explosion which destroys the hydraulic supply and the MUX cables either in control room areas or in the moonpool. In either case, the MUX system contains a "Deadman System" (DMS) which would automatically initiate closure of the blind shear rams and choke/kill isolation valves to seal off the wellbore. It would also initiate a disconnection of the riser connector to allow the rig to move of location. The DMS is powered by stand-by batteries and is not dependent on the system power of operation.

### Unplanned Disconnect of the LMRP

There are two safety systems which are incorporated in the control system which are designed to either prevent or control the event of an unplanned disconnect of the LMRP. They are:

- 1) Physical barriers prevent both the riser disconnect and the wellhead disconnect buttons on the Toolpusher's and Driller's panels to be accidentally activated. Deactivation of these barriers requires direct and deliberate intervention by the operator.
- 2) Touch screen controls on Operator Interface Panels (OIT's) require two (2) confirmations in order to complete either the riser or wellhead disconnect operation.
- 3) In the event there were to be an unintentional disconnect of the LMRP from the stack, the control system incorporates an auto-shear circuit which is activated on upward movement of the LMRP. Upward movement of the LMRP activates a circuit, which closes the blind shear rams. Hydraulic supply for this circuit is located in accumulators on the lower stack and does not require the LMRP to be in place.

### ROV Intervention

The Deepwater Horizon will have on board, manned for 24hr operation, a work class ROV capable of operating the following BOP stack functions.

- WH POCV Vent
- Accumulator Relief Valve Isolation (LMRP & Stack)
- Hydrate Remediation Injection - Wellhead Connector
- Hotline Bypass (B & Y)
- Accumulator Dump (LMRP & Stack)
- Riser Connector Unlatch
- Riser Connector Gasket Release
- Wellhead Connector Unlatch
- Wellhead Connector Gasket Release
- Ram ST Lock
- C/K Connector Unlatch
- SBR Close

In addition, the ROV system is installed with a "Curser" deployment system which allows launching of the ROV in more severe weather than standard systems.

A complete HAZOP study was completed on the Control system and all issues raised with were resolved.

### Discussion:

The following is a list of requirements that affect the decision:

- The BOP must comply with:
  - API 6A, Specification for Wellhead and Christmas Tree Equipment
  - API 17D, Specification for Subsea Wellhead and Christmas Tree Equipment
  - DNV Recommended Practice RP B401, Cathodic Protection Design
  - NACE MR-01-75, Standard Material Requirements - Sulfide Stress Cracking Resistant Metallic Material for Oilfield Equipment.
  - NAS 1638, National Aeronautics and Space Administration - Cleanliness Requirements for Parts Used in Hydraulic Systems.

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- Vendor Selection (Summary from Well Control System Meeting 12 Feb 99):
  - Price – Cameron is less than Shaffer
  - Vendor Support – Both companies require close monitoring for optimum performance.
  - Delivery – Cameron is 13 months and Shaffer is 10 months.
  - Vendor Confidence – Both companies are capable of producing acceptable systems.
  - Documentation – Cameron data from the RBS8M.
  - Track Record/Fleet Compatibility – Better with Cameron.
- The BOP shall be rated to a minimum working pressure of 15,000 psi.
- The outlet located on the annular was increased from 1-1/2" to 3-1/16" to increase the efficiency of gas bleed down. The decision was made to locate the choke line below the lower annular for ease of service versus below the upper annular for well control reasons.
- There have been a number of reports in the field concerning problems with ST-Locks. Cameron made a presentation to address these problems. The seals on the poppet valves were replaced with metal seals and the automatic sequencing feature was eliminated. Also, the roller bearings are now supplied as matched sets and the thrust bearing material has been upgraded.
- The lower ram is to be considered the master ram and will contain 5-1/2" fixed rams. This will correspond to the primary pipe size to be used.
- The CSR's are located below the SBR's. The purpose for this arrangement is to protect the sealing capabilities of the SBR. By first shearing with the CSR's and then raising the tail, the SBR's are able to close in the well with less risk of damaging the seal.
- A decision was made to standardize on a manufacturer for the BOP. The Cameron TL-Ram was favored over the Shaffer offering. The Shaffer annular was preferred because of the higher pressure required with the Cameron annular to strip pipe and close on open hole. The choice to go with Cameron was due to system continuity, field performance and fleet compatibility.
- Due to the high loads imposed on the BOP stack and riser, a study was done of the bolting. The results of this study required verifying the hardness value of the bolts to be used. The first set of bolting supplied was determined to be too hard and was subsequently replaced with bolts which had been individually inspected and found acceptable.
- EDS-1 and EDS-2 modes were tested and the times required were verified on shore to be 32 seconds for EDS-1 and 38 seconds for EDS-2.
- Shear test was conducted on both the SBR's and the CSR's. The CSR's were tested on 13-5/8" 88.2# Q125 casing and required 7 seconds to shear and 15 seconds to close at 2,000 psi. The CSR's also were tested on 5-1/2" 1-1/16" wall P110 pipe and required 11 seconds to shear and 27 seconds to close at 2,300 psi. The SBR's were tested on 5-1/2" 21.9# S135 pipe and required 5 seconds to shear and 12 seconds to close at 2,900 psi. Following the shear a successful pressure test was achieved.
- Due to the deep-water capabilities of the stack, the compression medium to be used in the subsea accumulators was investigated. The decision was made to go with Nitrogen instead of Helium. The primary drawbacks to Helium were its smaller atom size, which allow for easier migration through bladders and past seals, industry familiarity, cost and availability.
- Accumulator sizing and selection were based on the most efficient use of space for providing the required hydraulic fluid required to operate the stack. The bottles on the stack valves are required to close the valves under 15,000 psi working pressure. The total subsea accumulator requirements were LMRP: 8 15 gallon bladder bottles, 2 10 gallon bladder bottles, 4 60 gallon piston bottles. STACK: 6 15 gallon bladder bottles, 8 80 gallon piston bottles. All bottles are rated for 10,000 ft depth and 5,000 psi service.
- Coflexip hoses used on the LMRP and Stack are capable of withstanding collapse in 10,000 ft water depth if void.
- Hangoff capabilities of the various pipe rams are as follows:
 

Ram Size	Pipe Size	Maximum Hang Off Weight
3 1/2" x 5 1/2"	3 1/2" / 5" / 5 1/2"	140,000 / 450,000 / 450,000
5 1/2"	5 1/2"	600,000
- Stack Weight:
 

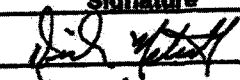
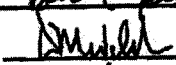
LMRP	272,000
Stack	<u>344,800</u>
Total	617,000

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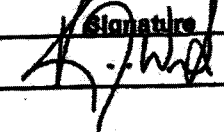
Function name	description	volume gal
Upper annular preventer	close	51
Upper annular preventer	open	45.1
Lower annular preventer	close	51
Lower annular preventer	open	45.1
Upper inner choke valve on LMRP	open	0.9
	close assist	0.94
Upper outer choke valve on LMRP	open	0.9
	close assist	0.94
One pair of fail static choke and kill line isolation valves on LMRP	open	1.88
	close	1.8
	latch	14.9
LMRP connector-primary	primary unlatch	18.5
LMRP connector-primary	secondary unlatch	18.5
LMRP connector-secondary	latch	1.5
Choke and kill connectors	primary unlatch	2
Choke and kill connectors	secondary unlatch	2
Choke and kill connectors	close	24.3
Ram preventer upper (SBR)	open	22.4
	close	69.4
Ram preventer middle upper (casing shear)	open	65.2
	close	24.3
Ram preventer middle	open	22.4
	close	24.3
Ram preventer middle lower	open	22.4
	close	24.3
Ram preventer bottom	open	22.4
	lock energize	3.4
Ram preventer lock	open	0.9
Middle inner choke valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Middler outer choke valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Upper inner kill valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Upper outer kill valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Lower inner choke valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Lower outer choke valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Lower inner kill valve	close assist	0.94
	open	0.9
Lower outer kill valve on	close assist	0.94
	latch	7.37
Wellhead connector-primary	primary unlatch	9.9
Wellhead connector-primary	secondary unlatch	14.18
Wellhead connector-secondary		

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Prepared By:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
Dick Metcalf	Vastar, Subsea Consultant		9-13-00
Dan M. Welch	Vastar Project Engineer		9-13-00

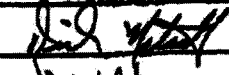
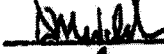
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Kevin Wink	Deepwater Horizon, Rig Manager		9-13-00
Don Weisinger	Vastar, Project Manager	_____	_____

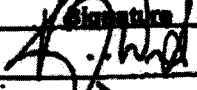
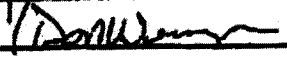


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