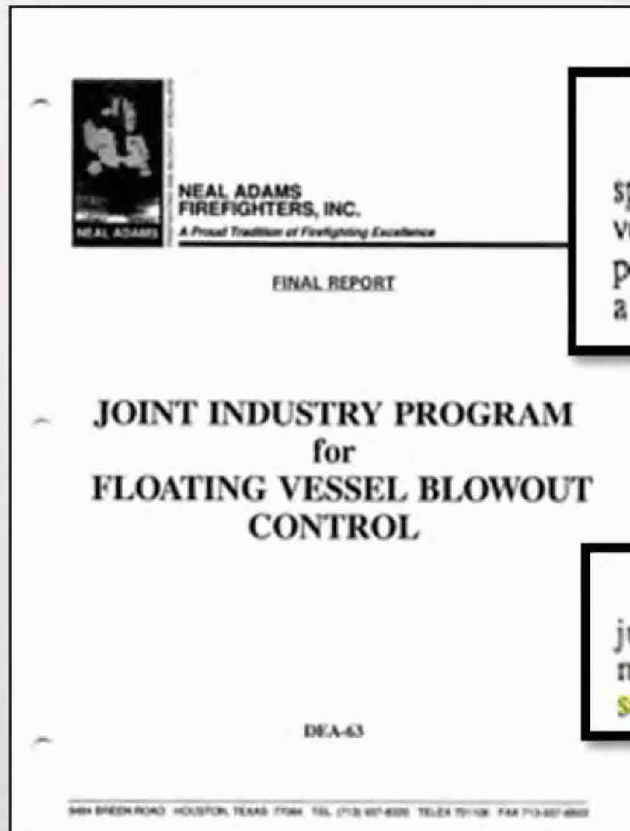


Joint Industry Blowout Control Report: DEA-63 (1991)



Technology improvements in drilling procedures should reduce future risks of a large spill from deepwater wells. Improved blowout control procedures, capping methods such as vertical intervention and relief well drilling techniques will further limit the probability of long term pollution from a blowout. Pressure exerted by a column of seawater will cushion the effects of a blowout in deep water.

It is a fact that drilling is moving into deeper waters. For the industry to economically justify the cost of this drilling larger reservoirs must be targeted for exploration and development. If a blowout occurs from one of these large reservoirs, oil-related pollution could be severe.