

From: Allen, Thad ADM  
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 12:44:12 PM  
To: Cook, Kevin RDML; Neffenger, Peter RDML; Landry, Mary RADM  
CC: Watson, James RADM; Salerno, Brian RADM; Zukunft, Paul RADM; Little, Patrick CAPT  
Subject: RE: NIC Top Kill Progress Report #15

Tks

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cook, Kevin RDML  
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:33 AM Eastern Standard Time  
To: Cook, Kevin RDML; Allen, Thad ADM; Neffenger, Peter RDML; Landry, Mary RADM  
Cc: Watson, James RADM; Salerno, Brian RADM; Zukunft, Paul RADM; Little, Patrick CAPT  
Subject: NIC Top Kill Progress Report #15

NIC,

... Just participated in a series of update and planning meetings. BP will attempt one more dynamic top kill pumping operation. Their management desire is to kick off by noon, but there are still some on-scene logistics that needs to come together regarding pre-staging of mud.

If pressed, recommend that you say "BP is reviewing data and making other preparations to begin another pumping operation later today." (This is based on track record of consistently missing start times by several hours.)

The decision is to use the 16.4 lb per gallon mud. Ultimately, engineers did not see the advantage from the heavier (18 lb) mud being significant. They could not get sufficient quantities without delays and the pump operator on scene did not feel he could be switching weights effectively.

The plan seem straight-forward today. 1) shoot the last remaining junk shot; 2) pump at full rate of 50 bbl per min. BP has stated they will have 10K bbl on scene (math... 3hrs 20min).

Andy Inglis conveyed to SecDOI this morning that Dr Chu supports this last attempt for a last dynamic top kill. Andy was not enthusiastic, but recognized there was no other alternative except to switch to containment.

The LMRP cap and riser continues to be the top containment option. BP appears to be prepared with riser cutters, cap, ect pre-deployed on bottom. Estimates remain 48 hours to cut the riser (3 sections) and 24 to position the LMRP cap.

v/r, -Kevin

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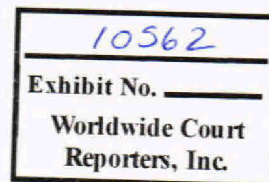
From: Cook, Kevin RDML  
Sent: Fri 5/28/2010 6:46 AM  
To: Allen, Thad ADM; Neffenger, Peter RDML; Landry, Mary RADM  
Cc: Watson, James RADM; Salerno, Brian RADM; Zukunft, Paul RADM; Little, Patrick CAPT  
Subject: RE: NIC Top Kill Progress Report #14

NIC, ... Short update. BP stopped pumping approx 0100 (central). They had indications that some of the bridging material had helped create additional back pressure, but after 2 hours may have eroded out.

I will update you as soon as I have the forward. As I said in my last update, BP may continue with the top kill option. Pumping with heavier mud was one tactical change being considered.

V/R, Kevin

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cook, Kevin RDML  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:45 PM Eastern Standard Time  
To: Allen, Thad ADM; Neffenger, Peter RDML; Landry, Mary RADM  
Cc: Watson, James RADM; Salerno, Brian RADM; Zukunft, Paul RADM; Little, Patrick CAPT  
Subject: RE: NIC Top Kill Progress Report #13

NIC, BP has tried to restrict flow (and gain back pressure) with a junk shot and mutiple bridging materials. The injections were in the mid section of the BOP. Efforts were unsuccessful indicating flow is relatively unconstrained in the top half of the BOP (material exited in the flow) so full rate of mud flow was not attempted.

Currently valves are being configured to deliver mud to the bottom of the BOP. Another junk shot and injections of bridging material will be made. This is being characterized as the last attempt. It is still an hour or more from starting. I will be leaving, but will have a Coastie here who will call me if BP is successful, and will get the word to you.

BP has been working the details and staging the equipment for the LMRP cap. As I have said before, this is currently the preferred option for containment once top kill options are exhausted.

There is still a small camp that thinks the well could be killed with 18 lb per gallon mud (currently using 16.4). Those folks think BP was very close to killing the well yesterday. I wouldn't be surprised if that option is exercised before going to the LMRP cap.

V/R, Kevin

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cook, Kevin RDML  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 06:54 PM Eastern Standard Time  
To: Allen, Thad ADM; Neffenger, Peter RDML; Landry, Mary RADM  
Cc: Watson, James RADM; Salerno, Brian RADM; Zukunft, Paul RADM; Little, Patrick CAPT  
Subject: NIC Top Kill Progress Report #12

NIC, BP has been pumping mud for the last hour. The junk shots and other bridging material are being injected carefully at fairly low pumping rates (approx 15 bbl per min). No significant indications so far. Anticipate rates will be brought up to 50 bbl per minute for top kill attempt. With use of same mud (16.4 lb per gallon) and same pumping rates as yesterday it is hoped that direct comparisons to yesterday's pressure changes will provide insights.

Will update upon significant developments.

V/R, -Kevin

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cook, Kevin RDML  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 02:23 PM Eastern Standard Time  
To: Allen, Thad ADM; Neffenger, Peter RDML; Landry, Mary RADM  
Cc: Watson, James RADM; Salerno, Brian RADM; Zukunft, Paul RADM; Little, Patrick CAPT  
Subject: NIC Top Kill Progress Report #11

NIC,

We are in what I would term a strategic pause. In Houston, engineers have been reviewing the data from yesterday hoping to capitalize on pressure and flow rate data. On site, mud supplies are being replenished.

Engineers have determined that more back pressure within the BOP stack is necessary to

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ensure enough mud goes into the well to overcome the well pressure. Engineered bridging material (frac balls, platelets) and the junk shot will all potentially be used. There is no guarantee that these will be effective in obstructing the flow and creating the back pressure. MMS engineers have validated the plan. Pumping is slated to begin mid afternoon after word comes in that the on site ops folk are ready.

In terms of messaging, BP considers the pause today a natural phase of a top kill, where you learn, adjust, and try again. I would not expect them to publically acknowledge the pause, and I recommend we not discuss it publically either.

V/R, Kevin

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