

Yes No |X|

press release

Issued in the US July 12, 2010 (July 13)

CAPPING STACK INSTALLED ON MC252 WELL

The three ram capping stack was installed on the Deep Water Horizon LMRP at 7 p.m. CDT (July 12). The stack completes the installation of the new sealing cap.

Following installation of the capping stack and in line with the procedure approved by the National Incident Commander and Unified Area Command, the well integrity test will begin July 13 on the MC252 well.

For the duration of the test, which will be a minimum of 6 hours and could extend up to 48 hours, the three ram capping stack will be closed and all sub-sea containment systems (namely, the Q4000 and Helix Producer) will be temporarily suspended, effectively shutting in the well. It is expected, although cannot be assured, that no oil will be released to the ocean for the duration of the test. This will not however be an indication that flow from the wellbore has been permanently stopped.

Information gathered during the test will be reviewed with the relevant government agencies including the federal science team to determine the way forward. Options include reinstatement of containment as well as extending the test duration beyond 48 hours.

The sealing cap system never before has been deployed at these depths or under these conditions, and its efficiency and ability to contain the oil and gas cannot be assured.

The Helix Producer containment system started operations on July 12. The Q4000 containment system continues to capture oil and gas from the MC252 well and flare the hydrocarbons safely at the surface.

Relief well operations continue throughout this period and remain the sole means to permanently seal and isolate the well.

Technical Briefings

BP will host two technical briefings, July 13, to provide updates on its subsea containment efforts. The briefings will be held at 7:30 AM CDT and 2:30 PM CDT. The dial-in details for these briefings are as follows:

US/Canada Dial-In Number: (877) 341-5824
International/Local Dial-In Number: (706) 758-0885

Password for morning briefings: AM Technical Briefing
Password for afternoon briefings: PM Technical Briefing

Enquiries:

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

BP p.l.c.
(Registrant)

Dated: 13 July 2010

/s/ D. J. PEARL
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D. J. PEARL
Deputy Company Secretary