



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GENERAL
Hotline Complaint Form

Your Hotline Complaint Form E004863 has been submitted for review by the OIG. Please retain this reference number and a copy of your complaint for your records. Thank You.

If you suspect fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement involving the U.S. Department of the Interior, please complete and submit this form by pressing the SUBMIT button below. If you are unable to submit this form directly online, you may select one of the alternative methods listed at the bottom of this form.

*By submitting this complaint, I understand I am **providing my name** and I agree that the **DOI OIG can disclose my name and other information I provide**, if necessary, to ensure my issues are addressed.*

Fields marked with * are required.

Your Contact Information

First Name * **Rick**
Last Name * **Steiner**
Select Your
Current Status **Private Citizen**

If select 'Tribal Member', please include Tribal Affiliation:

Title/Grade
Address
City **Anchorage**
State **Alaska(AK)**
Zip Code **99507**
Phone number
(xxx-xxx-xxxx) * **907-360-4503**
Email
(xx@xx.xxx) **richard.g.steiner@gmail.com**

Complaint Information

1. Subject Information: *(Who committed the alleged misconduct/wrongdoing? What is the title/position held by the alleged wrongdoer? Please include names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all subjects. If providing information concerning contractor or grantee fraud, please provide the name of the primary contractor and/or subcontractor, type of contract, contract or grant numbers, date of award, and the name of any agency officials.)*

BSEE, Gulf of Mexico (GOM) offices.

2. Victim Information: *(Please include names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all victims, to include Government entities. If the victim is a contractor or grantee, please provide the name of the primary contractor and/or subcontractor, type of contract, contract or grant numbers, date of the award, and the name of any agency officials.)*

Crew on the drill ship Deepwater Asgard, Gulf of Mexico coastal communities, the GOM environment

3. Where did the wrongdoing occur? *(Please provide the bureau, office, or other location, and the city, state, and phone number.)*

Gulf of Mexico (GOM) region. The drill ship Transocean Deepwater Asgard delayed disconnecting from its deepwater well GC 895#1 in the Green Canyon area of the Gulf, as hurricane Zeta approached, until it was too late. The late disconnect could have caused another catastrophic well blowout. BSEE is responsible for ensuring the safety of all offshore drilling operations, but failed to do so in this serious incident.

4. When did the wrongdoing occur? *(Please provide times and dates.)*

Hurricane Zeta began forming and approaching the drill ship on Oct.22, and Oct. 28, 2020 (one week before the Nov 3 US election) was the date of the actual Emergency Disconnect Sequence (EDS) of the Asgard. BSEE GOM should have immediately ordered the Asgard to disconnect from the well before the hurricane hit, and immediately began an investigation and released this information in a Press Release to the general public. It did none of this. BSEE failed to make the incident public until Mar 8, the day prior to crewman lawsuits being filed Mar 9. BSEE evidently concealed the serious incident from the public for political reasons.

5. What exactly did the individual do wrong/how was the wrongdoing committed? *(Please provide specific and relevant details concerning the alleged misconduct/wrongdoing, to include any policies, regulations, and laws violated.)*

BSEE has a responsibility to ensure compliance of all offshore drilling operators with US drilling safety regulations and procedures. It should have been in constant communication with all offshore operators upon approach of hurricane Zeta, and should have ordered the Asgard to disconnect from the well long in advance of the arrival of dangerous seas and winds in Zeta, at least by Oct. 27. It failed to take any action.

6. What was the effect of the wrongdoing? *(Was there a loss to the government? Did anyone benefit/suffer from the wrongdoing?)*

There was significant damage to ship and drilling components, and extreme risk to the crew and to the GOM marine ecosystem from a potential wellhead blowout. BSEE has not been transparent with the American public about this incident.

7. Do you have firsthand knowledge of the wrongdoing? *(Please include when and how you gained this knowledge.)*

No, just from BSEE Safety Alert No. 415, and the crew lawsuits filed Mar. 9.

8. Who else might be aware of this wrongdoing and how does the individual know? *(Please provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers.)*

The crew of the Asgard, the companies involved (Transocean, Beacon Offshore Energy, and Triton), and other employees of BSEE in the GOM region.

9. What do you believe would be an acceptable remedy to your concerns?

A thorough, independent investigation of the entire incident by the OIG should be conducted, to determine why BSEE failed in its duties, and recommend appropriate corrective remedies.

10. Has this allegation been previously reported to the OIG, or any other agency, to include, but not limited to, EEO, MSPB, OSC, or your bureau?

No Yes

If yes, please provide the dates, who did the review, and the current status of the complaint.

NA

Attachments

If you have supporting documentation, please attach files here

bsee-safety-alert-415-inadequate-preparations-in-advance-of-inclement-weather-results-in-excessive.pdf

*** *By checking this box, I confirm that the DOI OIG can disclose my name and other information I provide, if necessary, to ensure my issues are addressed.***

If you have additional information pertinent to your complaint, please provide that information via one of the below alternative methods:

- **E-mail:** Complete and submit this form and any supporting documents via email to: oig_hotline@doioig.gov

- **Telephone:** OIG Hotline's Toll-Free Number: 1-800-424-5081
- **Fax:** Complete and fax this form and any supporting documents to: 703-487-5402 (Attention: Intake Management Unit)
- **US Mail:** Complete and mail this form and any supporting documents to:
Office of Inspector General
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW - Mail Stop 4428
Washington, D.C. 20240

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