

Summary: Unsubstantiated Allegations of Violations of Safety Regulations

Report Date: February 2, 2022

Report Number: 20-0255

We investigated allegations that an oil and gas company, and its contractor, violated safety and environmental regulations by improperly disposing of construction materials, including platform grating, valves, and I-beams, directly into the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) and washing oil and chemicals overboard.

We found that, on January 25, 2020, debris, primarily a steel staircase, fell into the Gulf of Mexico from an unmanned production platform due to human and procedural error. We did not substantiate that the oil and gas company or the managers of the contractor directed personnel to intentionally dispose of debris into the Gulf. We also found that, on January 30, 2020, a company representative reported a small oil leak that occurred during maintenance on the offshore platform. Weather and ocean modeling data showed no evidence of a spill, and we found no indication of any intentional release of oil or chemicals or concealment of the leak.

This is a summary of a report we provided to the Director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

