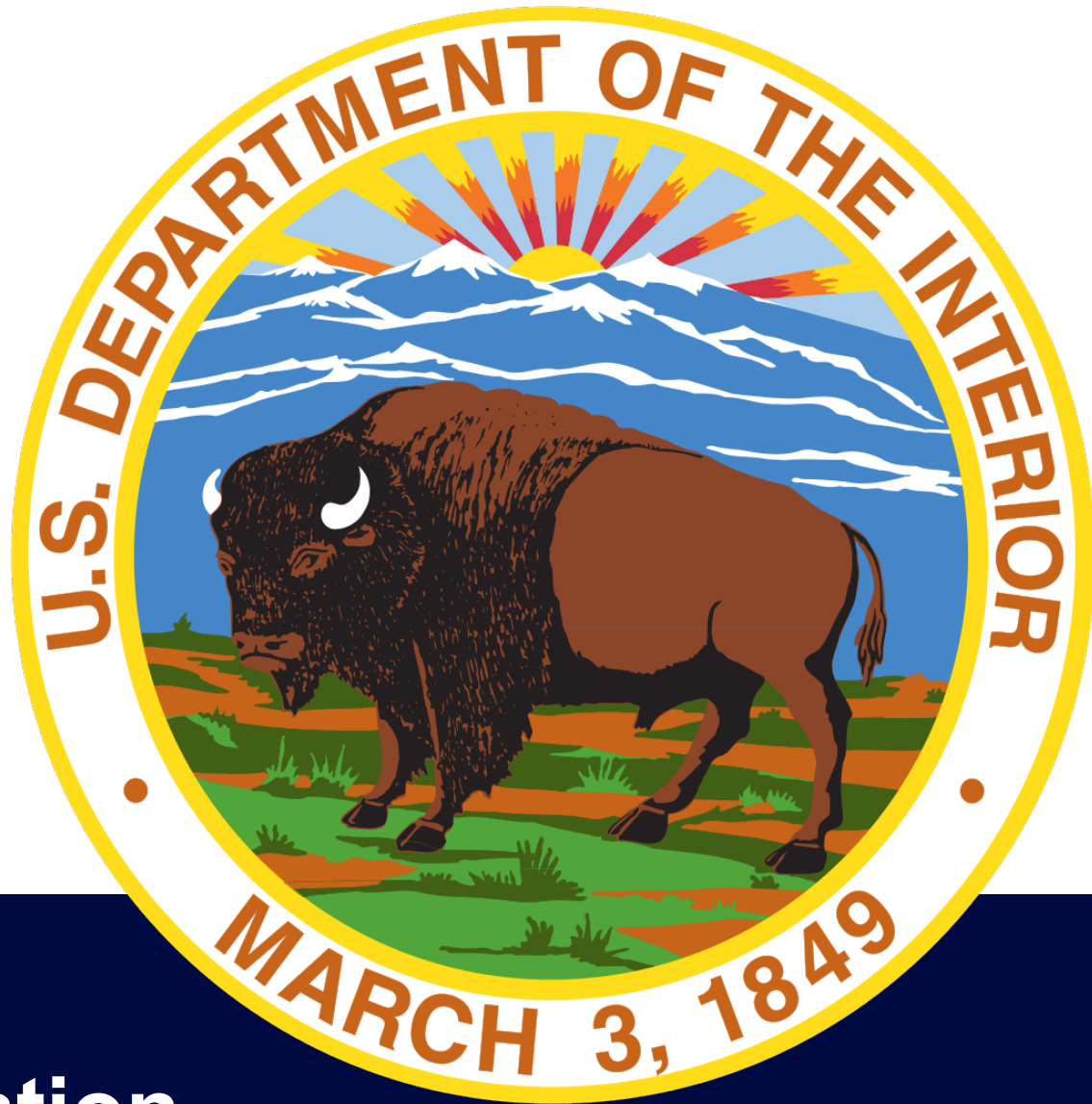




OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Investigation

Pollution and Falsified Log Entries at MP 310-JA Facility

This is a revised version of the report prepared for public release.



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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

We investigated allegations from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) that Fieldwood Energy, LLC (Fieldwood), falsified inspection logs associated with the offshore platform Main Pass (MP) 310-JA. It was also alleged that Fieldwood's Person in Charge (PIC) Patrick Huse neglected to take corrective action after he was made aware of a pollution event that occurred at MP-310A in the Gulf of Mexico on or about July 25, 2015.

Fieldwood was an energy company that operated multiple offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico and produced oil and gas subject to Federal mineral leases and regulations. As an offshore operator, Fieldwood was required to comply with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1331 – 1356c. This law required Fieldwood to properly test and maintain equipment aboard the platform. BSEE enforces this law and related regulations, conducts routine inspections, and has the authority to issue oil and gas companies civil penalties for incidents of noncompliance. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for enforcing violations of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319 and 1321. Companies who operate offshore oil and gas facilities located in areas within Federal jurisdiction have legal responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, including, preventing water pollution. Furthermore, certain conduct that results in pollution and, therefore, violates the Clean Water Act, may constitute a criminal act.

Patrick Huse served as Fieldwood's PIC of MP 310-JA, and as such he was responsible for overseeing the platform's daily production operations, managing personnel, and managing emergencies that occurred aboard the platform. We found that Huse failed to take action necessary to stop or mitigate the July 2015 pollution event and ordered platform operators to lie to BSEE inspectors after the pollution event was discovered. Additionally, we found that Huse ordered platform operators to falsify the platform's inspection logs, and falsely claimed Fieldwood employees visited unmanned platforms and complied with requirements established in BSEE's regulations.

We presented our findings to the Eastern District of Louisiana (EDLA) U.S. Attorney's Office, who prosecuted this case. On March 31, 2022, Huse pled guilty to one count for violating the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(c)(1)(A) and § 1321(b)(3), for Fieldwood's negligent discharge of a pollutant into the Gulf of Mexico. On June 23, 2023, Huse was sentenced to 2 years of probation, fined \$5,500, and ordered to pay a \$25 special assessment. We are providing this report to the Director of BSEE for any action deemed appropriate.

II. SUBJECT

Patrick Huse, Person in Charge, Fieldwood Energy, LLC.



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REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT

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