



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS  
Incident Information #44**

***Date: 24 September 2009 1240 WST***

Drilling operations to stop the flow of oil, gas and water from the Montara well head platform in the Timor Sea are continuing.

The latest stage of the relief well operation, due to start later today, will involve drilling a 12¼ inch hole to a depth of 2,300m. This is expected to be completed by the end of the weekend.

Following this, the final phase of the drilling of the relief well will see a 95/8 inch liner inserted into the well before drilling an 8½ inch hole from 2,300m to the final depth of 2.6km. This is currently scheduled to start early next week.

Sophisticated electro magnetic ranging tools will then be used to intersect the existing well. Heavy mud will be injected into the well bore to stop the flow of oil, gas and water.

**Relief well drilling milestones:**

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| 14 September 2009 | The total operation – to drill to a depth of 2.6km to intersect the existing well and allow for the injection of heavy mud to stop the flow – commenced. |
| 15 September 2009 | An initial 26-inch diameter hole was drilled to a depth of 149m and a 20 inch conductor pipe was run through and cemented into position.                 |
| 21 September 2009 | Completion of the drilling of a 17.5 inch diameter hole to a depth of 1,622m.  |
| 22 September 2009 | A 133/8 inch casing was inserted into the well and cemented into position.   |

The drilling operation is still on track to take a total of three-and-a-half weeks (from the start date of 14 September) to stop the leak.

Following the completion of the initial relief well operation, a specialist crew will board the *West Atlas* drilling rig and the Montara well head platform to further secure the well by plugging the well bore. This phase is expected to take about another week.

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**NOTE:**                                      This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at [www.au.pttep.com](http://www.au.pttep.com).