



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information #51**

Date: 30 September 2009 1200 WST

Work to stop the flow of oil, gas and water from the Montara well head platform in the Timor Sea is progressing.

A 95/8 liner will be inserted into the relief well and cemented into place today, after drilling of a 12¼ inch hole to reach a depth of 2,375m was completed yesterday.

It is expected that this latest phase of the relief well drilling operation will be completed by Thursday night (1 October 2009). Drilling of an 8½ inch hole from 2,375m to the final target depth of 2,600m is expected to begin on Friday.

Following this, sophisticated electro magnetic ranging tools will be used to pinpoint the existing well before drilling into it and pumping heavy mud to stop the flow of oil, gas and water. While the drilling has been progressing, the *West Triton* drilling rig has been preparing for this phase of the operation and is now fully loaded with the heavy mud material.

The relief well drilling operation remains on schedule to take a total of three-and-a-half weeks (from the drilling 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.