



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS
Incident Information # 67**

Date: 16 October 2009 11:15 WST

Work is continuing today in preparation to intercept and stop the leaking well in the Montara field in the Timor Sea this Saturday (17 October).

Following earlier attempts to reach the target point, the latest side track well drill is now this morning within one metre of its target – steel casing 25 centimetres in diameter at a depth of 2.6km below the sea bed.

Today the drill team aboard the *West Triton* platform will be installing a milling assembly – a specialised drill bit to bore into the steel casing – before heavy mud is pumped into the well to stop the leak.

Tomorrow morning (17 September) the drilling team will run the milling assembly down the relief well to intercept the target leak point.

Once the leaking well has been intercepted, more than 900 barrels of heavy mud will be pumped from the *West Triton* down the relief well, displacing the oil gas and water and stopping the flow.

It would take approximately two hours to fill the total of 6.3km down the full length of the relief well and back up the existing well to the surface at the well head platform.

After the flow has been stopped, there will be an approximate 24-hour safety stand off period. A team from leading international oil and gas well control engineering specialists ALERT Well Control will then reboard the well head platform and the *West Atlas* rig to further secure the well by inserting two plugs into the previously leaking well bore.

This second operation to plug the well should take about another week to complete.

Members of the ALERT reboarding team are on stand-by at the Truscott air base in the Kimberley, ready to travel to the site if the intercept this weekend is successful, while a Perth-based boarding team has arrived in Darwin.

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NOTE: This media statement and all previous statements issued by the company can be viewed at www.au.pttep.com.