



**PTTEP Australasia TIMOR SEA OPERATIONS**  
**Incident Information # 86**

*Date: 2 November 2009 1415 WST*

PTTEP Australasia is continuing with its preparations to kill the well and stop a fire at the Montara well head platform and surrounding the *West Atlas* drilling rig in the Timor Sea.

Well control experts are today mixing approximately 4,000 barrels of a heavy density of mud to pour down the relief well. It is now expected to take until later this evening to complete the preparation of all of the required quantity of heavy mud.

Due to safety concerns, the company will not be in a position to attempt to kill the well and stop the fire until tomorrow morning.

“The best and safest way to stop the fire is to ‘kill the well’ by pumping heavy mud into the leaking well from the *West Triton* rig,” said PTTEP Director and Chief Financial Officer José Martins.

“The mixture of heavy mud is designed to backflow along the leaking well, stopping the flow of gas and oil at the surface of the H1 well, cutting off the fuel source for the fire at the well head platform.

“This should kill the well and should stop the fire.”

Mr Martins said the company’s drilling experts were today also conducting tests inside the leaking well to obtain more data so that it maximised its efforts to kill the well when the heavy mud was poured down the relief well.

Overnight, the fire on the Montara well head platform and surrounding the *West Atlas* rig has continued. In addition, all eight non-essential personnel were taken off the *West Triton* rig.

There have been no personnel onboard the *West Atlas* rig since August 21 when the emergency first started.

Eyewitness reports today indicate there is little or no oil being released into the ocean from the Montara well head platform. This would indicate the oil and gas is burning off from the well head platform fire.

***Ends***

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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).