INTERNAL USE ONLY

Notifiable incident

Notification ID	NTF13720
Duty holder	Woodside Energy (Australia) Pty Ltd
Facility/Activity	Griffin Decommissioning and Field Management
Nearest state	
Incident	EM-HC - Release of gas and oil mixture during flushing of pipeline

Basic information provided at time of notification	
Notification type	Incident
Incident date	08/05/2025 03:30 PM (AWST)
Notification date	08/05/2025 06:40 PM (AWST)
NOPSEMA response date	08/05/2025 06:40 PM (AWST)
Received by	[redacted]

Summary of information provided	
Brief descriptive title	EM-HC - Release of gas and oil mixture during flushing of pipeline
Incident location	
Subtype/s	
Summary *(provided at notification)*	Caller states that during flushing of Griffin field pipeline as part of current de-commissioning activities a discharge was identified via remote monitoring. A mixture of what is BTB water, oil and gas at an estimated size of 6 cubic meters has been released to environment and a visible sheen has been identified. WEL have stood up a response team and are utilising the vessel Deep Orient which is in the field undertaking decom activities. A tracking buoy has been launched to assist in monitoring the direction and movement of the release and staff are currently modelling predicted path. The composition of the mixture is considered a group 1 oil which indicates it is likely to evaporate and dissipate - this is yet to be confirmed but is based on existing data. Unknown time frame regards further info being available - depends on vessel being able to conduct further works. The flushing of the pipeline planning did not anticipate any oil remnant within the pipe, and the flushing is now suspended and no further activity is to be undertaken pending investigations by WEL. 2055 - TPC from [redacted] to advise volume of fluid flushed through pipe was 61 cubic meters not 6. The error was due to a miscommunication between deck staff on Deep Orient. They do not believe there is any change to the expected volume of oil within the mix and their underlying assumptions have not changed. WEL happy to share spill modelling data - I requested they email same to submissions inbox to allow whoever receives notification 09/05 to view. 1144hrs 09/05/2025 - TPC from [redacted] with update - Advises based on analysis conducted it appears there is also some remnant product from the FPSO tank in the mix, however it does not change their modelling and assumptions on the dispersal of the slick. It does make their assessment of the weight of the spill heavier but does not impact expected pattern modelling. A helo overflight took place this morning, sheen observable to be app 2km x 2km however very patchy and considered micro thin. The slick is tracking southwest and no declared environmentally sensitive areas to be impacted, no impact to shoreline anticipated. WEL not intending to deploy dispersals or booms due to advice being sheen will dissipate through evaporation and ocean movement. Satellite imagery will be available 10/05/2025

Request permission to disturb the site	
Permission given	Not Applicable

Permission given by	
Permission given on	

Initial spill and release amounts	
Gas (kg)	
Liquid (L)	6000.00
Release type	Hydrocarbon gas and petroleum fluid
More information	App 6 cubic meters released based on volume pushed into pipeline for flushing. Unknown composition values of three components - oil sheen identified and gas was anticipated to be present with water flushing.

Details of person providing information to NOPSEMA	
Full name	[redacted]
Job title	[redacted]

Initial notification category	
Initial category type *(based on notification)*	Environment Reportable
Initial category *(based on notification)*	EM - hydrocarbon vapour / petroleum liquid release

Running sheet	
Created by	[redacted] at 1:15 PM 21/05/2025
Objective reference	A1212649
Details	E-Decom team has discussed status of L1 investigation with [redacted] (who is running the Level1 Investigation) and recommended initiate Level 2 investigation, to focus on cause of the release, including Environment Plan and operational compliance aspects (identifying any breach or future threats to the environment). E-Decom RoN has approved opening a Level 2 Investigation, which will be undertaken by [redacted] and [redacted].
Created by	[redacted] at 8:40 PM 10/05/2025
Objective reference	
Details	TPC from [redacted] - [redacted] at WEL. Identified as discharge now appears to exceed 80L it triggers an OHS report. Unable to add this notification as Griffin decom does not appear on OHS category. Email to focal point and relevant director as 3 day report likely to be directed to them also
Created by	[redacted] at 5:45 PM 09/05/2025
Objective reference	
Details	TPC from [redacted] with update - advises that helo flyover this afternoon could not identify slick/sheen from air. Support vessel on station reporting same. Further flyover tomorrow morning and also satellite to be in place app 0500 hours to obtain imagery. Appears has dispersed but yet to be formally confirmed at this stage. IMT still actively managing - smaller support vessel has arrived on station to relieve Deep Orient. All decom activities have ceased and will not be recommenced until full investigation and planning done by WEL [redacted]. WEL to provide daily updates over weekend in email form, happy to further discuss if needed and take calls.
Created by	[redacted] at 1:20 PM 09/05/2025
Objective reference	

Details	I had a telephone call with [redacted] and [redacted] at Woodside on [redacted] to get a status update regarding the incident. Update from the call: Discharge: 61m³ mixture of water, gas, and material from previous tank cleaning activities (including heavier hydrocarbons) estimated to be discharged during flowline flushing activities, 58km North-West of Ningaloo. Release identified during ROV activities at 15:30 on 8 May 2025. ROV confirmed the source, and it has been stopped. Sample of the material collected for lab analysis. All flushing activities paused. Risk assessment to be undertaken before any future flushing activities. Woodside's First Strike Plan activated and IMT stood up. Oil Spill Modelling: Regular modelling assuming 61m³ of hydrocarbon. No shoreline contact or sensitive receptors, including the Marine Park, expected. Spill expected to evaporate by 12 May. Tracker buoy deployed, moving SW to W. Support vessel to be deployed to monitor. Helo overflight at 08:30 identified a patchy 2x2 km light sheen. Next overflight planned for 14:30 today 9 May. Response Team: On standby. No dispersant or boom to be deployed. I requested daily updates throughout the weekend, which Woodside agreed to provide.

Decision	
Escalate to level 1	Yes
Inspector	[redacted]
Escalated on	10/05/2025 09:17

Final notification category	
Final category type *(based on final report)*	Environment Reportable
Final category *(based on final report)*	EM - hydrocarbon vapour / petroleum liquid release

Immediate causes	
Details	Flushing of the Flowline is an action contained in the Griffin Decommissioning and Field Management Environment Plan (Document No. GV-HSE-E-0014), to prepare the Flowline for decommissioning. The contents of the Flowline were unknown but assumed to be remanent slops water. Flushing commenced at approximately 1500 hrs and during this planned activity it was observed from the USV ROV footage feed that a black substance had begun being discharged from the outlet valve on the NORM scale catcher tool (NCT) installed on the 2nd end of the flowline. Along with the black substance, discharge observed included other product / material from the flowline.

Initial report	
Due date	11/05/2025
Received date	11/05/2025
Reviewed date	11/05/2025
Reviewed by	[redacted]

Additional details provided by duty holder	On 8 May 2025, the Woodside contracted TechnipFMC Offshore Support Vessel Deep Orient commenced flushing of the decommissioned GR-1 flowline in the decommissioned Griffin Field, WA-10-L, approximately 80 km north-east of Exmouth Coast, in 131 metres of seawater (msw). The flushing was being carried out subsea (the flowline resting on the seabed, disconnected at both ends) to remove potential hydrocarbon gas trapped in the line ahead of its planned recovery later in 2025. Deep Orient was equipped with a seawater pumping spread and a downline that connected to the flowline on the seabed to inject seawater treated with fluorescein dye as approved for discharge in accordance with relevant Environment Plan (EP) requirements. The Woodside contracted Fugro Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) Kwilena was monitoring the second end of the flowline (2.8km away from the 1st end) and providing a feed of the Remote Operated Vessel (ROV) footage to the Deep Orient. Flushing commenced at approximately 1500 hrs and during this planned activity it was observed from the USV ROV footage feed that a black substance had begun being discharged from the outlet valve on the NORM scale catcher tool (NCT) installed on the 2nd end of the flowline. Along with the black substance, discharge observed included other product / material from the flowline. The flushing activity was subsequently stopped at approximately 1536 hrs to enable identification of discharges and assess the situation. The EP accepted treated seawater with fluorescein dye was not discharged to sea and was contained within the flowline. At 1800 hrs, Deep Orient observed a light sheen on the sea surface above the second end of the flowline, and the spill tracking buoy was deployed at 1816 hrs. The release is believed to contain unanticipated fluids, which may possibly include water, produced water, residual hydrocarbons, degraded production chemicals and scale. Potential impact area was determined by undertaking spill trajectory modelling based on the hydrocarbon release. The modelled hydrocarbon release assumes a 100% crude oil release which is conservative compared to the expected slops water composition. The spill trajectory modelling indicates that the spill is limited to the vicinity of the release location due to rapid evaporation of nearly 75% of crude hydrocarbon material, with approximately 20% of hydrocarbon volume potentially residual in the water and subject to slower degradation over time. Spill trajectory from initial modelling and on-going forecast predicated to be in a west-south-westerly direction. Priority areas for protection and impact assessment identified as the Gascoyne Marine Park and Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area and Ningaloo Marine Park. No significant volume or concentration of hydrocarbons predicted to contact the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area or Marine Parks, and no potential for shoreline accumulation. Visual observations from vessels and aircraft lost sight of surface sheen within 24 hours, consistent with modelling predictions. WQ Monitoring SMP was activated and a sampling plan developed and implemented within EP committed timeframes.

Final report	
Due date	12/06/2025
Received date	12/06/2025
Reviewed date	12/06/2025
Reviewed by	[redacted]
Additional details provided by duty holder	This is in fact an interim '30-day report' report (submitted a few days later following request) - A1225358 Report received 12/06/2020 - A1225532 Please find attached June 2025 update to the Griffin flowline event. This is a partial report which includes information in response to the matters you requested by email on 06 June. An update to the status and timing for the completion of the internal investigation, and subsequent finalisation of the full report, is included in the attached. > Woodside investigation still underway. > NOPSEMA L2 investigation still underway.

Final spill and release amounts	
Gas (kg)	0.00
Liquid (L)	0.00

Release type	
More information	

Root causes	
Code	
Description	

All data received	
Date	