

21 December 2009

The Commissioner, Montara Inquiry
P.O. Box 1564, Canberra, 2601 Australia

Dear Commissioner,

This submission concerns primarily the response to the incident in terms of drilling the relief well to intercept the blowout. I have no direct knowledge of how this was carried out, but I have had some experience in similar situations.

The petroleum industry in general is rather slow to adopt any new or non-standard technology, even if there are considerable benefits. Most such work is contracted via service companies who are paid a daily rate.

These service companies have no incentive to adopt methods which may reduce the number of days for which they will be paid. They will stick with the "tried and true" methods.

I believe it is appropriate for your commission to ensure that in any future incidents all contractors involved have a financial incentive for the problem to be quickly resolved.

I am submitting this as a private individual. The views expressed here are my own and do not represent those of my employer or anyone else.

Sincerely,

A Professional Engineer (Petroleum)
With Experience in Relief Wells