



ROUND TABLE GROUP
 Information Submission on
 Fatal / Significant Events

Document	RT 001 F 001
Page:	1 of 3
Version:	1.0
Issue date:	October 2005
Author	Round Table Group
Approval	Round Table Group

Reference RT Charter #1

Elimination of Fatalities and Major Incidents - A statesman role in understanding and addressing industry hazards that may result in fatalities or major incidents.

COMPANY:		Fatality	Incident	Property Damage	Process Loss
DATE OF EVENT:	23 Aug 2008				
TIME OF EVENT:	2015 hrs		X		
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:	<p>While drilling geotechnical hole 08SBD383 at a depth of approximately 17m, the drill tower suddenly broke at a welded joint just above the point where the supporting legs join the tower. The top of the upper section of the tower came to rest on the ground, with the bottom end still partially attached to the bottom section of the tower. The driller immediately stopped drilling and called in the incident to the drill foreman. Inspection of a second rig appeared to show a similar cracking problem developing.</p> <p>Potential for fatality to personnel worked around the drill.</p>				
DIRECT / UNDERLYING CAUSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three drills were purchased new in 2008 and have less than three months service. Basic cause was failure of the aluminum mast for unknown reasons. <p>Immediate Causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Using Defective Equipment – probable defective welds ● Defective Tools, Equipment or Materials – aluminum tower possibly too long (~13 meters) <p>Basic Causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inadequate Examination of units – towers should be examined before put in use. ● Inadequate inspection and/or monitoring - towers were not routinely inspected between drill setups and monitored while drilling. 				
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At approximately 9:00 pm, all drilling in the belt was suspended, pending investigation of the incident and inspection of the rigs by a qualified person. The drill contractor and drill manufacturer are on the investigation team. <p>Investigation Results: Defective welds were found and no SOP's in place. Definite cause for the tower failure remains unclear and the investigation is ongoing.</p> <p>Corrective Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete visual examinations of all aluminum welds on all drill towers. All welds were inspected and defects documented by a certified welding inspector. ● Complete non-destructive testing of all aluminum drill towers. Another Duralite drill with the same specifications as drill 1483 and long drill tower is being tested and will be used to evaluate the structure of the tower. ● Create SOP's for slinging aluminum drill towers, and for raising and lower towers once they are bolted to the drill frame. 				



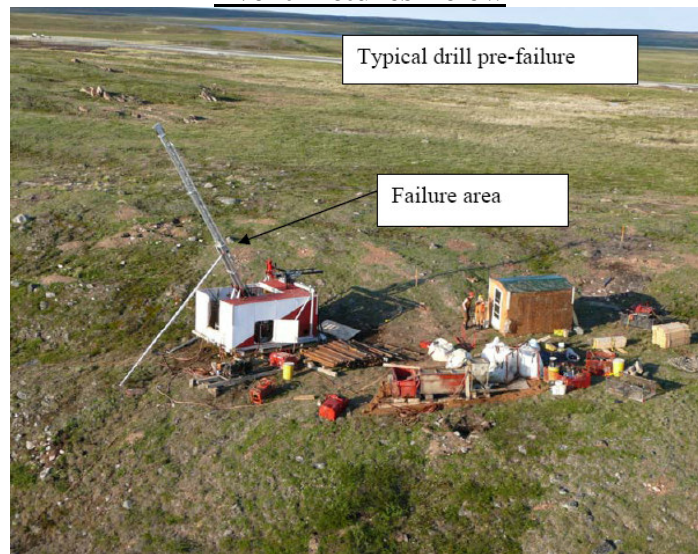
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- Supply training records showing drillers have been properly trained in handling aluminum drilling towers.
- Testing of the failed drill tower to determine causes of failure. The investigation on the defective tower continues. A group of safety representatives are investigating the WHY and a report is expected soon.
- All four towers will be replaced at Hope Bay project with certified towers built by another company. Area beneath the towers is flagged off as a
- temporary control until all towers are replaced.

Event Pictures Below





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Document
Page:
Version:
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Author
Approval

RT 001 F 001
3 of 3
1.0
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