

# Investigation of Oil Theft from an Offshore Production Platform

**Report Date: December 15, 2015**

OIG investigated allegations that a group of unknown individuals conspired to steal oil from a production platform in the Gulf of Mexico, and that in order to conceal the scheme, the platform operators falsified numerous documents and altered the configuration of platform equipment.

In response to the complaint, our office conducted interviews, reviewed records, consulted with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and visited the platform.

During the investigation, BSEE officials reported that in order for the allegations to be true, the platform would have been rendered inoperable, commonly referred to as shut-in, for a long period of time. In addition, the alleged scheme would have required numerous individuals from multiple companies and BSEE to have conspired to conceal the ongoing theft. BSEE inspections also did not find any altered equipment, and we found no evidence that documents had been falsified as alleged.

During our visit to the platform, we found no altered equipment and our subsequent interviews did not uncover any information corroborating the allegations. As a result, we closed our investigation with no further activity and referred our report to BSEE for information only.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on March 8, 2016.*

