Survey of Oil & Gas Structures in Lake Pontchartrain – 2008 - 2009 Status

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Summary

A number of oil and gas leases have been developed in Lake Pontchartrain, requiring installation of offshore platforms or structures related to operation of the oil and gas fields. Most of the completed wells are now out of production and many of the wells are reported to be plugged. However, at least 25 whole or partial structures remain above the lake surface even though there are only a handful of wells still in production. The remaining structures may be popular fishing spots, but they also present public safety and environmental hazards.

In late 2008 and early 2009, staff from the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation surveyed and photographed three groups of mostly non-producing oil and gas structures in Lake Pontchartrain. In addition to taking photographs and GPS coordinates, the researchers noted the condition of each structure and the presence of navigation lights and oil well heads. Since nearly all of the surveys were conducted during daylight, it was not possible to verify that all lights present were in fact in working order. It is possible that navigation lights reported to be present may not be functioning, and therefore, those structures may pose additional hazards to navigation.

Observations and GPS coordinates collected in the field were correlated with aerial photos to confirm locations. Wells were then identified using the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources’ online database, known as SONRIS. Most of the observed wells matched records fairly closely, though there was some uncertainty in a few identifications. Many of the structures were unmarked, and those with posted labels referred only to the state lease number, not the individual well serial number. Structures were numbered from west to east, and are cross-referenced from the maps, to the tables and to individual structure descriptions. We believe this survey is a near complete survey of existing oil and gas structures in Lake Pontchartrain.

This investigation concludes that:

- At least seven of the twenty-five structures (28%) are in various states of disassembly, decay and disrepair. Future storms will likely dislodge timbers and create drifting hazards to navigation.
- Thirteen of the twenty-five (52%) do not have navigation lights and are hazards to navigation.
- Seven of the twenty-five structures do not navigation lights and do have a well head present. These structures, therefore, pose the additional environmental risk of leakage of subsurface brine or petroleum with a higher probability of collision due to lack of navigation lights.
Structures Overview

Southwest and Central Well Clusters

- St Charles Parish
- Jefferson Parish

○ = No Navigation Light present on structure

Northeast Well Cluster

- Kenner
- Lacombe

○ = No Navigation Light present on structure
Southwest Structure Group

These structures are on leases located in West Lake Pontchartrain Block 41. Of the ten structures, five had navigation lights, though observations were made during the day and operational status was not determined. Four structures had no lights. One structure had no navigation light and had a well head.

= No Navigation Light

Well Data

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Serial #</th>
<th>Well Name</th>
<th>API #</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Listed Status</th>
<th>Well Head?</th>
<th>Light?</th>
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<table>
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<td>No Well Head, Light</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Aerial Image

Main platform looking north. Note separator tank in foreground and wellhead in middle distance.

Structure 1

Serial # 207304
30° 4.16’ N
90° 19.36’ W
Approx. Area
4,000 m²
Light Present
Well Head Present
Structure 2

Serial # 60323

30° 4.312’ N
90° 17.842’ W

Approx. Area
1,600 m²

Light Present
Well Head Present
Looking north.

Mix of steel and wood structures.
Structure 3

Serial # 166772
30° 4.458’ N
90° 17.796’ W

Approx. Area
800 m²

Light Present
No Well Head

Brown pelicans loafing on wooden piles
Note navigation light.
Structure 4

Serial # 154687

30° 4.220’ N
90° 17.693’ W

Approx. Area
900 m²

No Light
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Looking north west toward platform 2.

Looking south toward Kenner
Structure 5

Serial # 165333

30° 4.490’ N
90° 17.375’ W

Approx. Area
2,000 m²

No Light
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Looking northeast.
Structure 6

Serial # 137535

30° 3.780’ N
90° 16.785’ W

Approx. Area
1,600 m²

No Light
No Well Head
Well head with identification sign.

Well head and associated timber structures.
Structure 7

Serial # 133600

30° 3.660’N
90° 16.603’ W

Approx. Area
750 m²

No Light
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Looking south toward Kenner.
Structure 8

Serial # 136172

30° 3.746’ N
90° 16.371° W

Approx. Area
13,000 m²

Light Present
Well Head Present

Active platform with separator tanks and associated structures.
Drilling barge indicating current activity at site.

Structure 9
Serial # 136306
30° 3.792’N
90° 16.104’ W
Approx. Area
m²
Light Present
Well Head Present
Structure 10

Serial # 143432

30° 3.893’ N  
90° 16.038’ W

Approx. Area  
600 m²

Unknown Status

Aerial Image

No Photos Available

Has not been surveyed
Central Structure Group

These wells are on leases located in West Lake Pontchartrain Blocks 37, 38 and 45. Four of the eleven structures had navigation lights, though observations were made during the day and operational status was not determined. Seven structures (all of those not listed as “plugged and abandoned”) had well heads visible above the lake surface. Photographed on 11/11/2008.

Well Data
GPS coordinated collected in the field by LPBF staff.
Well data collected from: http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/sonlite.htm
Spatial data collected from: http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www_root/sonris_portal_1.htm

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<th>API #</th>
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<th>Longitude</th>
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Operational structure within cluster:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
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<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Producing Well (G&amp;C)</th>
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<th>Status</th>
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<td>Well Head, No Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Well Head, Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>No Well Head, No Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Well Head, Light</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Aerial View

Brown pelicans resting on old timber structure.

Though hazardous at night, unmarked timber structures attract local fishermen by day.

Structure 11

Serial # 166772

30° 4.482’ N
90° 13.825’ W

Approx. Area
3,000 m²

No Light
No Well Head
Aerial Image

Structure 12
Serial # 159950
30° 4.665’ N
90° 11.181’ W
Approx. Area
1,600 m²
Light Present
No Well Head

Looking Northwest: Note navigation beacon
Structure 13
Serial # 207654
30° 5.302’ N
90° 11.103’ W
Approx. Area
2,200 m²
No Light
Well Head Present

Aerial Image

Looking Southeast: New Orleans in background

Looking West
Looking North: note well head

Looking East
Structure 14

Serial # 204458

30° 5.409' N
90° 10.809' W

Approx. Area
1,200 m²

No Light
Well Head Present

Aerial Image

Looking Southeast

Looking South
Looking East: operational structure # 194616 in background

Well Head Detail: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in background
Structure 15

Serial # 217806

30° 5.349' N
90° 10.748' W

Approx. Area
1,200 m²

No Light
Well Head Present

Aerial Image

Looking East: operational structure # 194616 in background

Looking Northwest: structure #4 in background, note well head in center
Looking South: New Orleans and Metairie in background

Looking West
Platform 16

Serial # 210112

30° 4.708' N
90° 10.734' W

Approx. Area
2,000 m²

No Light
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Looking North: note pilings lashed to top of platform

Looking East
Looking Southwest

Looking South: Metairie in background
No aerial image available

Looking East: Well head detail. Note navigation beacon.

<table>
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<th>Structure 17</th>
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<td>Approx. Area</td>
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<td>100 m²</td>
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<td>Well Head Present</td>
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Structure 18
Serial # 204033
30° 5.513' N
90° 10.723' W
Approx. Area
900 m²
Light Present
Well Head Present

Aerial Image

Looking North

Looking East: Well head detail. Note navigation beacon.
Structure 19

Serial # 198728

30° 5.622’ N
90° 10.406’ W

Approx. Area
900 m²

No Light
Well Head Present
Looking South: New Orleans and Metairie in background.

Looking East: Well head detail. Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in background.
Aerial Image

Structure 20

Serial # 208802

30° 5.394' N
90° 10.323’ W

Approx. Area
100 m²

Light Present
Well Head Present

Looking East: Note navigational beacon
Structure 21

Serial # 159061

30° 4.103’ N
90° 9.905’W

Approx. Area
350 m²

No Light
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Looking West

Looking Northwest: operational well #194616 in background.
Looking East: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in background.

Looking South
Structure 22

Serial # 207287

30° 3.098’ N
90° 9.256’ W

Approx. Area
200 m²

No Light
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Looking East: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway in background.

Looking South: Lake Pontchartrain Causeway and Metairie in background.
Northeast Structure Group

These structures are on leases located in Lake Pontchartrain in or near Big Point Field. Of the three structures, two had navigation lights, and were operational at night. One structure (a single piling) had no lights.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Serial #</th>
<th>Well Name</th>
<th>API #</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
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<td>89° 55.880'</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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5 Mi.

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Aerial Image

Western Flash Platform

Platform survey 5/30/09 by John Lopez and Nathan Arthur in vessel Blue Moon

Structure 24

Serial # 152118

30° 13.545’ N
89° 57.359’ W

Approx. Area
150 m²

Light Present
No Well Head

Lights have been installed since this picture was taken.
Platform without lights on May 30, 2009

Platform with navigation lights on July, 2009 (upper right side of deck). These lights were observed at night and were functional.
Structure 25

Serial # 152901

30° 13.159’ N
89° 55.880’ W

Approx. Area
125 m²

Light Present
No Well Head

Aerial Image

Eastern Flash Platform

Lights have been installed since this picture was taken.
Platform without lights on May 30, 2009

Platform with navigation lights on July, 2009 (upper right side of deck). These lights were observed at night and were functional.