

Elgin leak stopped after well intervention

2, place Jean Millier
La Défense 6
92 400 Courbevoie France
Tel. : 33 (1) 47 44 58 53
Fax : 33 (1) 47 44 58 24

Martin DEFFONTAINES
Laurent KETTENMEYER
Matthieu GOT
Karine KACZKA
Robert PERKINS

Robert HAMMOND (U.S.)
Tel. : (1) 713-483-5070
Fax : (1) 713-483-5629

TOTAL S.A.
Capital 5 909 418 282,50 euros
542 051 180 R.C.S. Nanterre

www.total.com

Paris, May 16, 2012 - Total is today able to announce that a well intervention operation has stopped the G4 well leak on the Elgin complex, 240km from Aberdeen in the UK North Sea. The well intervention operation, which involved pumping heavy mud into the leaking well, began on May 15th and the leak was stopped 12 hours later. The G4 well had been leaking following an incident on March 25, which led to 238 people being quickly and safely evacuated from Elgin and an adjacent drilling rig, the Rowan Viking. From an estimated initial gas flow rate of around 2 kg/second, the leak had progressively decreased to an estimated 0.5 kg/s.

Since the beginning of the incident, experts from Total and specialist contractors have been working to stop the leak. During the coming days, these teams will closely monitor the G4 well in order to confirm the complete success of the intervention.

Speaking about the Elgin situation, Yves-Louis Darricarrère, Total's President of Exploration & Production, said: "Today, a major turning point has been achieved. Our absolute priority was to stop the gas leak safely and as quickly as possible. Since March 25th, we have been working closely with the authorities and we have communicated transparently and will continue to do so. We shall now fully complete the ongoing task and take into account the lessons learnt from this incident."

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