BP in America

Deepwater Gulf of Mexico

BP, a leading producer and supplier of oil and natural gas in the United States, is a major investor in America’s energy development. An important part of BP’s production comes from the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, where the company has been at work since the 1950s.

Commitment to the gulf

Over the past 10 years, no energy company has invested more in the deepwater gulf than BP. BP is the Gulf’s leading acreage holder and a leading producer of oil and natural gas in the region. In 2014, the company produced 252,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day from more than 10 fields, including BP-operated facilities at Na Kika, Mad Dog, Atlantis and Thunder Horse. BP also continues to hold interests in four non-operated hubs: Mars, Mars B, Ursa and Great White. Since 2013, the company has started four major production projects in the Gulf: Atlantis North Expansion Phase 1, Na Kika Phase 3 and Atlantis North Expansion Phase 2, as well as Mars B, which Shell operates.

Louisiana is the staging ground for BP’s gulf operations. The BP Gulf of Mexico Aviation Logistics heliport in Houma transports more than 500 workers to and from 13 offshore facilities each day. The logistics base in nearby Port Fourchon supplies all of BP’s offshore assets with equipment and materials. Located at depths of up to 7,000 feet in some locations, BP’s Mardi Gras Pipeline systems transport crude oil and natural gas streams from many facilities, including the company’s four operated production platforms. Majority owned and operated by BP, the Pascagoula natural-gas plant in Mississippi processes more than half of the company’s natural gas from the gulf and is one of the 10 largest facilities of its kind in the U.S. by capacity (1.5 billion cubic feet per day). The BP-operated Destin Pipeline transports natural gas from the gulf through the Pascagoula facility and then extends north to interconnections with several major interstate gas pipelines.

Fueling America’s future

BP intends to remain an active participant in all aspects of the gulf – as explorer, developer, operator and interest owner. The company’s recent discoveries demonstrate that the deepwater gulf will play a critical role, not only in securing America’s energy future but also in fueling economic growth across the globe. More than 75 percent of BP’s global production and operating cash flow in 2020 is expected to be delivered from existing fields or projects currently underway. Along with the North Sea, Angola and Azerbaijan, the gulf is one of four key geographic regions that the company expects will generate around half of BP’s operating cash in 2020. Less than 10 percent of the original oil in place around BP’s existing four hubs in the gulf has been produced to date, indicating extensive opportunities for further extraction.

With a multi-billion dollar investment program underway, BP plans to focus future activity in the gulf on growth opportunities around the company’s operated production hubs as well as on significant exploration and appraisal opportunities. BP is advancing several major projects in the gulf, including development options for Mad Dog Phase 2 and the Thunder Horse South field extension. In January 2015, BP formed an ownership and operating model with Chevron and ConocoPhillips to move two of its significant Paleogene discoveries closer to development and provide expanded exploration access in the emerging geologic trend in the gulf.

Fast facts

- Operating in more than 7,000 feet of water, the Atlantis platform is BP’s deepest moored floating platform in the gulf, with a daily production capacity of approximately 200,000 barrels of oil and 180 million cubic feet of natural gas.
- Thunder Horse is BP’s largest production and drilling platform in the gulf. It operates at a depth of 6,050 feet, with a daily production capacity of approximately 250,000 barrels of oil and 200 million cubic feet of natural gas.
- One of BP’s most prolific producers in the gulf, the Na Kika platform is a hub for eight subsea fields. It operates at a water depth of more than 6,000 feet, with a daily production capacity of approximately 130,000 barrels of oil and 550 million cubic feet of natural gas.
- BP’s Mad Dog platform is a floating spar facility. One way its design differs from the company’s other gulf platforms is that the bulk of its 550-foot-long single column sits underwater. It operates at a water depth of 4,500 feet, with a daily production capacity of approximately 80,000 barrels of oil and 60 million cubic feet of natural gas.