



MITTELPLATE

Safe and environmentally compatible
oil production in the Wattenmeer tidelands

OIL ACCIDENT IN THE GULF OF MEXICO RAISES QUESTIONS

Over recent weeks, one issue has been dominating the public discourse: the offshore oil drilling platform that sank in the Gulf of Mexico and the subsequent oil spill. The questions frequently asked since then are: „Could something like this happen here in Germany?“, and “Does oil production in the sensitive Wattenmeer National Park not involve far too many risks?”

In an effort to answer these questions, we would like to provide you with some background information regarding the safety concept on which the design of the Mittelplate Drilling and Production Island is based.

- The bottom of the Mittelplate Drilling and Production Island sits directly on top of a sandbank and is firmly anchored in place, and it is therefore impossible for it to sink.
- Sophisticated monitoring and control systems provide multiple levels of safeguards for all drilling and production operations. Safety valves installed below and above ground can be activated automatically, manually or by remote control.
- Numerous fire and gas alarms are installed throughout all sections of the island. All these sensors are checked constantly by a central monitoring system in the control room.
- The drilling rig and production facilities are sealed from the environment. Mittelplate Island is built in the form of a compact, leak-proof steel and concrete basin. Nothing can escape from the island unchecked. Even rain and spray is collected and treated on the island.
- A comprehensive closed waste disposal system guarantees that the North Sea and the Wattenmeer tidelands are not exposed to contamination.
- Because Mittelplate is a single, compact structure sitting directly on top of the tidal flats, there is easy access to all safety-related devices and equipment for inspection purposes.
- An emergency plan is in place for dealing with contingencies and incidents. Employees are trained to deal with emergencies in safety courses, exercises and seminars.
- RWE Dea assigns the highest priority to compliance with safety and environmental protection standards in all its activities. The 22-year record of incident-free production on Mittelplate is solid proof that environmental protection and oil production can go hand-in-hand.
- Environmental protection organisations cite Mittelplate as a model for responsible oil production.

Mittelplate Drilling and Production Island

A compact system featuring separate living, drilling and processing areas. Safety and environmental protection on a minimal footprint.

State-of-the-art, electrically powered drilling rig

Large drilling and production cellar fitted with above-ground shut-off valves Below-ground safety valves at a depth of 90 m

Helicopter landing pad for emergencies

Evacuation chamber requiring no outside air supply and capable of accommodating over 100 people

Puncture and gas-proof steel decking for drill rig cellar

Lock gate seals off island and docking bay

Double-hulled crude oil storage tank

Leak-proof steel-and-concrete basin

Scour protection made of rocks to protect against tidal currents

Producing oil from domestic sources is important for the following reasons:

- Highest environmental protection and safety standards anywhere in the world.
- Major significance for the national economy. More than 50 per cent of Germany's domestic oil production comes from the Mittelplate field.
- Mittelplate oil helps reduce Germany's dependence on oil imports, thereby making an important contribution to securing the country's energy supply.
- Oil production creates a large number of jobs. More than 1,000 people are involved in processing the crude oil and oil derivatives.
- The royalties payable on oil produced here represent a reliable source of income for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein.
- There will be no additional structures for oil production purposes built on the Wattenmeer tidelands in future. In future, oil will be produced through extended-reach wells drilled either from the Drilling and Production Island or from outside the boundaries of the National Park.

RWE Dea AG

Corporate Communications

Überseering 40

22297 Hamburg

T +49(0)40-6375-0

F +49(0)40-6375-3162

E info@rwede.com

I www.rwede.com