

BP: Sealed ocean well isn't source of Gulf sheen

October 18 2012

(AP)—BP PLC says a sheen on the Gulf of Mexico appears to have come from oil seeping out of a piece of discarded equipment used to contain its massive 2010 oil spill and not from its sealed well.

On Thursday, the company said underwater surveys determined oil probably leaked from an 86-ton steel cofferdam the company lowered to the well to funnel oil to the surface. The cofferdam was one of several methods BP used in its months-long effort to contain its blown-out Macondo well.

A sheen appeared in September and was linked by laboratory tests to the well.

BP says that in the past three days, it sent remotely operated vehicles down to the wreck site and found that its blown-out well was secure.

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