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This Fall

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Partner Accuses BP of Recklessness

By **CLIFFORD KRAUSS**

HOUSTON — The chief executive of Anadarko Petroleum, a BP partner, accused BP late Friday of recklessness in the way the company managed the gulf well project before it ended in environmental disaster.

“The mounting evidence clearly demonstrates that this tragedy was preventable and the direct result of BP’s reckless decisions and actions,” Jim Hackett, Anadarko’s chairman and chief executive, [said in a statement](#). “Frankly, we are shocked by the publicly available information that has been disclosed in recent investigations and during this week’s testimony.”

Anadarko owns a 25 percent stake in the well, which means it could potentially be liable for that percentage of the total damages. BP owns 65 percent of the project, with the Japanese company Mitsui owning the remaining 10 percent. Anadarko’s share price had dropped more than 40 percent since the April 20 accident.

In its statement, Anadarko said that under its joint operating agreement, “BP is responsible to its co-owners for damages caused by its gross negligence or willful misconduct.”

As the principal operator, BP made the critical decisions on how to drill the well. The accident killed 11 workers and has been spewing tens of thousands of barrels of [oil](#) daily in the Gulf ever since.

Until Friday, Anadarko had little to say publicly about the accident.

“We recognize that ultimately we have obligations under federal law related to the oil spill,” the

statement said, “but will look to BP to continue to pay all legitimate claims as they have repeatedly stated that they will do.” The statement went on to distance BP from the rest of the industry, adding that its “failures in the drilling of this well are not a reflection of the many tremendously skilled and committed individuals in our industry.”

Anadarko, which is based in Houston, is a major offshore driller for oil and gas around the world.