Summary of BP’s Conclusions

The Top Kill results did not allow BP and the Unified Command to select just one of the three scenarios, or to rule any of them definitely out. This left all three scenarios open as possibilities. From the data available at the time it was reasonable to conclude that one or more collapse disks could have ruptured. Therefore, Scenario #3, with the fracture and surface broaching potential, had to be considered a real possibility if the well was shut-in without the ability to control flowrate and BOP pressures.

Following the initial blowout, there were many questions about the integrity of the Macondo well. The hope was that data from Top Kill would answer some of those questions. It did not. Absent those necessary answers, the Unified Command chose to guard against formation fracture and surface broaching, which could have made the Incident much worse, by deciding to pursue containment instead of early shut-in.