



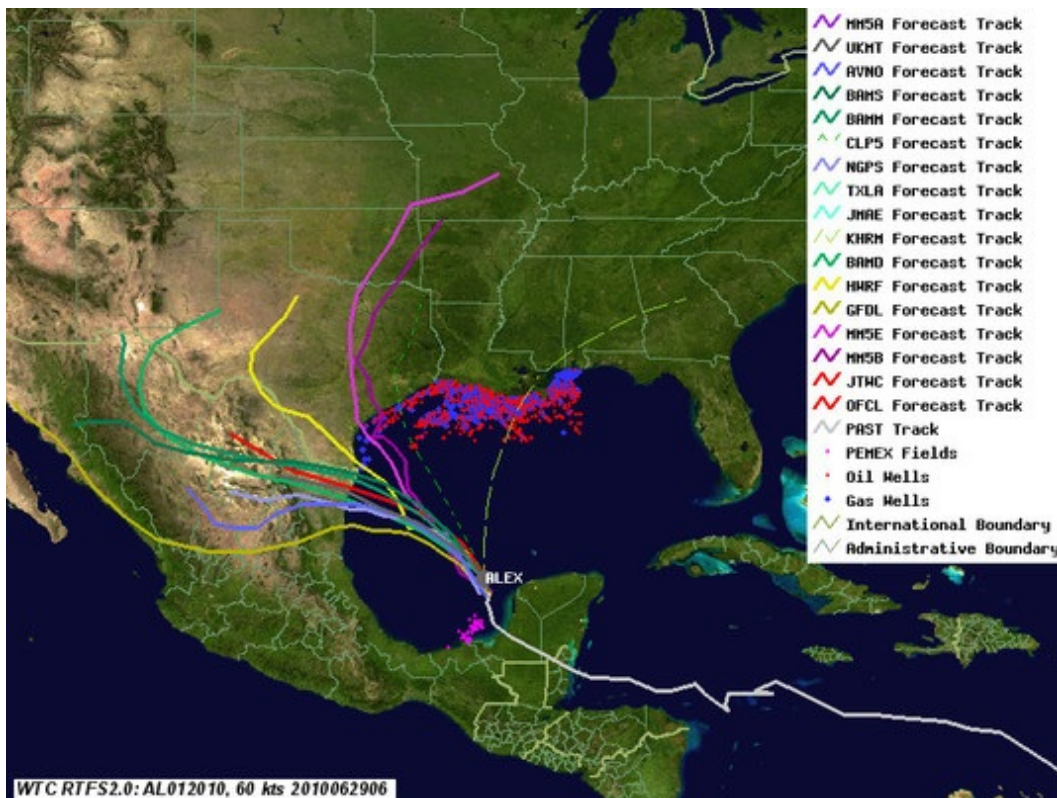
Storm Watch, 29 June 2010

Posted by [methaz](#) on June 29, 2010 - 10:25am

Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

Tags: [alex](#), [deepwater horizon](#), [gulf of mexico](#), [hurricanes](#) [[list all tags](#)]

As of 7am ET, Alex is just short of hurricane strength, moving slowly northwest, and continues to develop slowly. It should be declared a hurricane later today. Track guidance has consolidated somewhat, with most of the reliable models showing landfall in northern Mexico or South Texas. Hurricane Warnings are now up for these coasts (Note that this year Warnings are issued at 36 hours - in previous years, a "warning" was not issued until the storm was 24 hours out). A turn more westward is anticipated today or tomorrow. There is still some uncertainty as to when and how sharp that turn will be. The two yellow lines in the map below are NHC's main computer models - with the red official track splitting the difference. Alex may reach Category 2 strength (winds near 100mph) before landfall.



There is now very little to no chance the storm will significantly impact either the relief wells or capture efforts at the Deepwater Horizon site. The waves and winds may slow things down a little, but not seriously. Cleanup efforts will certainly be adversely impacted by waves for several days. The question is how bad, and that depends on how strong Alex becomes, and the exact track. It is likely the Gulf will be churned up for a few days. Even relatively small (3ft) waves are rough on protective barriers like booms, and make skimming difficult. The swell can also induce currents in the near shore area, which will move the oil around without dispersing or mixing it.

Production impact discussion is below the fold - bottom line, some short term shut in, no long term damage.

Estimated Production Impact

On the current tracks, we (Kinetic Analysis Corporation) do not expect any long term impact on either production or refining. Peak shut in for oil is estimated at about 10%, Natural Gas 15%, of daily production. Numerous companies have evacuated personnel and made precautionary shutdown on the offshore fields south of Corpus Christi Texas. Our models show only minor damage potential, and that on older facilities. (By the way, for those new to oil/gas discussions, the term "shut in" is used because the production isn't really "lost", it's just "shut in" to the ground while we wait for the storm to pass and the facilities repaired. We'll get it out eventually - just not when we want it.) PEMEX stopped exports from some terminals, but apparently there was no production impact.

We'll update this thread during the day as conditions warrant.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).