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3 **An alternative review of facts, coincidences and past and future studies of the**
4 **Lusi eruption**

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19 Abstract:
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21 The cause of the Lusi mud eruption remains controversial. The review by Miller and
22 Mazzini (2017) firmly dismisses a role of drilling operations at the adjacent
23 Banjarpanji-1 well and argues that the eruption was triggered by the M6.3
24 Yogyakarta earthquake 254 km away. We disagree with these conclusions. We
25 review drilling data and the daily drilling reports, which clearly confirm that the
26 wellbore was not intact and that there was a subsurface blowout. Downhole
27 pressure data from Lusi directly witness the birth of Lusi at the surface on the 29th
28 of May 2006, indicating a direct connection between the well and the eruption.
29 Furthermore, the daily drilling reports specifically state that Lusi activity was visibly
30 altered on three separate occasions by attempts to kill the eruption by pumping
31 dense fluid down the BJP-1 well, providing further evidence of a connection
32 between the wellbore and Lusi. By comparison with other examples of newly
33 initiated eruptions, the Yogyakarta earthquake was far away given its magnitude.
34 We show that other shallow earthquakes with similar frequencies produced
35 stronger ground shaking and did not trigger an eruption. Finally, the data from the
36 BJP-1 well indicates that there was no prior hydrodynamic connection between
37 deep overpressured hydrothermal fluids and the shallow Kalibeng clays, and that
38 there was no evidence of any liquefaction or remobilization of the Kalibeng clays
39 induced by the earthquake. We thus strongly favor initiation by drilling and not an
40 earthquake.
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42

43 **1. Introduction**
44

45 Lusi has been a fascinating laboratory for studying the birth and evolution of large
46 mud eruptions. To interpret observations made during this eruption, we contend

47 that it is essential to understand the processes that initiated the eruption. In the
48 timely review by Miller and Mazzini (2017), the eruption is attributed to an
49 earthquake and the authors argue that the adjacent drilling operations at the
50 Banjarpanji-1 (BJP-1) well played no role.

51

52 It is important to highlight that, despite the claims made by Miller and Mazzini
53 (2017), the drilling-trigger and earthquake-trigger theories have several points in
54 common. Both theories argue that something changed the effective stress (stress
55 minus pore fluid pressure) on faults or fractures under Lusi, causing those faults or
56 fractures to become active and permit fluid flow to the surface. The earthquake and
57 drilling triggering mechanisms differ on two main points:

- 58 1) What caused the change in effective stress under Lusi? Drilling-trigger
59 proponents argue that the change in effective stress was the large pressure
60 increase in the BJP-1 borehole that occurred when the well was shut-in
61 during a kick (an influx of fluid) on the 28th of May 2006 (resulting in a
62 minimum effective stress change of 2.6 MPa; Davies et al., 2008; Sawolo et al.,
63 2009). Earthquake trigger proponents argue that the change in effective
64 stress was the result of gas release due to liquefaction of the Kalibeng clays,
65 with this liquefaction being triggered by the dynamic shaking from the
66 passage of seismic waves from the 27th May 2006 Yogyakarta event
67 (resulting in a maximum effective stress change of 0.2 MPa; Lupi et al., 2013).
- 68 2) What was the primary initial source of high-pressure water driving the initial
69 eruption, and, specifically, were the Kalibeng clays hydrodynamically
70 connected to deep overpressured fluids prior to the Lusi eruption? Drilling-
71 trigger proponents argue that the water that primarily drove the start of the
72 Lusi eruption was sourced from the deep carbonates at ~2800 m depth
73 (which are directly connected to a deep overpressured, and possibly
74 hydrothermal, system), and that the kick in BJP-1 allowed these fluids to use
75 the borehole to flow up into the Kalibeng clays, entraining these clays as they
76 flowed through fractures to the surface. This model suggests no prior
77 hydrodynamic connection between the Kalibeng clays and deeper waters
78 (though does not specifically preclude such a connection). In contrast, the
79 earthquake trigger proponents argue that the Kalibeng clays had been
80 previously 'charged' by deep overpressured and hydrothermal fluids via the
81 Watakosek fault, and that this had 'primed' the Kalibeng clays for
82 liquefaction or mobilization. Published earthquake-triggering models
83 specifically require the Kalibeng clays to be in hydrodynamic connection
84 prior to the Yogyakarta earthquake (Mazzini et al., 2012; Lupi et al., 2013).

85 These two issues are essentially the key to distinguishing between the earthquake-
86 and drilling-trigger arguments, as summarized in [Figure 1](#). Here we assess key
87 claims in the review by Miller and Mazzini (2017) using published data from daily
88 reports and drilling logs and we revisit the analysis of how earthquakes trigger
89 eruptions. We argue that the evidence strongly supports the drilling-trigger model,
90 and contradicts the earthquake-triggering model.

91

92 **2. Drilling**

93
94 Miller and Mazzini (2017) do not bring any new data to the argument that drilling
95 did not create the Lusi mud volcano, and repeat the claims made by Sawolo et al.
96 (2009) and Sawolo et al. (2010), which were primarily authored by the Lapindo
97 Brantas drilling engineers responsible for drilling the BJP-1 well.
98
99 The key observations are documented in the daily drilling reports, and published
100 previously as an appendix in Sawolo et al. (2009). We summarize these
101 observations and show the daily drilling reports for the 24-hour periods ending at 5
102 am on the 27th to 31st of May 2006 (Figures 2-6) to directly contradict most of the
103 key statements in Miller and Mazzini (2017). It is the actual raw drilling data and
104 daily drilling reports, as well as other (published) data, that form the basis of the
105 arguments made by proponents of the drilling-trigger hypothesis for Lusi (Davies et
106 al., 2007; 2008; 2010; Tingay et al., 2008; 2015).
107
108 The original well report statements and raw drilling data presented herein
109 demonstrate conclusively that the wellbore was fractured during the kick, suffered
110 large ongoing downhole losses for long periods after the kick commenced, and that
111 there was direct communication between the BJP-1 wellbore and Lusi eruption.
112 These are described in Claims 4 and 7 below, and are the key evidence that supports
113 a drilling-trigger for the Lusi disaster. However, we also discuss all major claims
114 made by Miller and Mazzini (2017) and Sawolo et al. (2009) and show that their
115 claims require readers to ignore large parts of the original drilling records and
116 reports, without any justification.
117
118 We do not discuss many other claims in Miller and Mazzini (2017), such as
119 production rate changes in nearby hydrocarbon wells and reported drops in water
120 levels in villages, as these are anecdotal statements for which no supporting
121 evidence has ever been published, and hence cannot be verified or quantitatively
122 assessed. The claims below are listed in chronological order. We first summarize
123 each claim, explain why it matters, review the evidence, and provide a conclusion
124 about each claim.
125
126 We use a clear hierarchy of data in our assessment. We consider raw data and the
127 BJP-1 daily reports to be the most reliable data, as these reports list observations
128 and routine calculations made at the time of events. Furthermore, we give greater
129 confidence to evidence, statements and observations that are confirmed in multiple
130 sources (e.g., stated in multiple daily reports, or on both reports and raw data). It
131 should be noted that such daily reports are generally classified as legal documents,
132 and confirmed and signed off for their accuracy by multiple sources. Such raw data
133 should always be considered more robust and reliable than claims, statements or
134 interpretations made significantly after the events at BJP-1, which have the potential
135 to be affected by biases and, in some cases, are not backed up with any verifiable
136 data.
137

138 **Claim 1:** *“BJP-1 well recorded partial losses of drilling mud directly after the*
139 *earthquake and followed by total loss of drilling mud directly after two strong*
140 *aftershocks of the Yogyakarta earthquake” (Miller and Mazzini, 2017).*

141
142 **Why it matters:** During drilling operations, mud is continuously circulated through
143 the drill string, past the bit, and back up the annulus between the drill string and the
144 casing (or open wellbore) where it is recaptured at the surface. The circulating mud
145 lubricates the drill bit, flushes debris from the borehole, and in the uncased section,
146 exerts a fluid pressure engineered to slightly exceed the formation fluid pressure,
147 preventing exchange of formation fluid with the borehole. ‘Partial losses’ refers to
148 an imbalance between the rate at which mud is pumped into the well and the rate at
149 which it is recovered, indicating that mud is being lost to the surrounding
150 formations. Losses coincident with the passage of seismic waves could indicate that
151 a distant earthquake modified subsurface conditions.

152
153 **The evidence:** We begin by addressing the second part of this claim. A total “loss of
154 returns” (which means that drilling mud stopped returning to the surface) at the
155 BJP-1 wellbore occurred at 12:50 pm on the 27th of May 2006. Three significant
156 aftershocks occurred following the 05:54 am Yogyakarta earthquake that day,
157 namely a M_w 4.4 at 08:07 am, a M_w 4.8 at 10:10 am and a M_w 4.6 at 11:22 am. Thus,
158 the total losses in BJP-1 occurred 88 to 283 minutes after any aftershocks, and the
159 claim by Sawolo et al. (2009) and Miller and Mazzini (2017) that the losses occurred
160 *“directly after two strong aftershocks”* is thus misleading. Indeed, the claim implies a
161 definite connection between the total losses and the aftershocks, when the
162 significant delay between the aftershocks and total losses does not suggest any such
163 connection. Importantly, the drilling reports (Figure 3) make no mention of the
164 Yogyakarta earthquake and its aftershocks. Nor is there mention of any unusual
165 cessation of drilling activities being required during this period. Indeed, normal
166 drilling activities continued throughout the approximately eight-hour period
167 between the Yogyakarta earthquake and the total losses in BJP-1 (and in the ~90
168 minutes between the final aftershock and the total loss of circulation).

169
170 The first part of this claim states that the BJP-1 well experienced partial downhole
171 losses immediately after with the passage of earthquake waves from the main
172 Yogyakarta earthquake. Sawolo et al. (2009) present an annotated partial copy of
173 the mudlogger’s surface mud pit volume graph (their Figure 12), which is used to
174 record the volume of mud in the mud pits on the surface (note that the stated
175 volume of ~740 barrels, compared to a total volume of mud in the hole of 1273
176 barrels on the daily mud engineers report for the 27th May 2006, Sawolo et al.
177 (2009) appendix G3, confirms that the chart is the surface mud pit volume and not
178 the downhole mud volume). This graph shows an approximate 20 barrel drop in
179 mud volume in the surface pits at 6:02 am, or approximately 7 minutes after the
180 main Yogyakarta earthquake. However, there are a number of issues and
181 irregularities that cast significant doubt on whether this volume change is due to
182 downhole losses. First, these are surface pit volumes, and are not the charts used for
183 downhole volumes. This chart simply shows that the surface mud pit volume

184 reduced by ~20 barrels over a period of some minutes (no time scale is given in the
185 chart). There is no statement in the daily mud reports of any losses downhole at this
186 time, nor of what this 20 barrel change in surface mud volume refers to (Sawolo et
187 al., 2009). Surface mud pit volumes may change due to removal of mud from the pits
188 for cleaning, and are also done routinely many times each day to top off mud in the
189 well that is lost from gradual downhole seepage and from spillage associated with
190 actions of the shale shakers. There is no evidence to confirm that this minor change
191 refers to sudden downhole losses.

192
193 There are also doubts over the timing of this drop in surface mud tank volume, as
194 discussed in detail in Tingay (2015). Figure 12 of Sawolo et al. (2009) is partial and
195 unclear. The figure is annotated in blue with the time 06:00, but the actual time
196 stamps (in black) are unclear, due to image quality, with one looking like 05:00 and
197 another 06:00. Most tellingly, what is clearly written on the left of the chart is the
198 depth they are drilling when the 20 barrel change occurred, which occurred while
199 the well was drilled between the depths of 9274.2 and 9275.2 feet. The daily drilling
200 reports for BJP-1 clearly state the depth of the well at 5 am on the 27th of May 2006
201 as being 9277 feet (which is confirmed as the 5 am depth in the Daily Geological
202 Reports and Daily Mud Reports; Sawolo et al., 2009 and Figure 2). This is a clear
203 discrepancy in the claim made by Sawolo et al. (2009), as it seems impossible that
204 BJP-1 could be drilling from 9274.2-9275.2 feet depth at 06:00 am when they had
205 already drilled several feet past this depth at 05:00 am. The available published
206 evidence implies that the 20 barrel change in surface pit volume possibly occurred
207 before the earthquake.

208
209 **Conclusion:** The claim of total losses being “directly after” major aftershocks is
210 incorrect. Given the time discrepancy, and the magnitude of these aftershocks being
211 significantly lower than the main earthquake, a link between these aftershocks and
212 the total losses in BJP-1 is not expected. Importantly, none of the published drilling
213 reports make any mention of losses occurring “directly after” either the Yogyakarta
214 earthquake or any of the smaller aftershocks. There is no reliable evidence to
215 support the claim of downhole losses coincident with the arrival of seismic waves at
216 approximately 06:02 am on the 27th of May 2006. The only provided evidence
217 shows 20 barrels of change in surface mud pits, with no supporting data to
218 determine whether this relates to downhole losses. Furthermore, there is a clear
219 discrepancy in the reported timing of this event, with the original time stamps being
220 ambiguous, and the reported depth of these losses corresponding with the drilling
221 depth shortly prior to 05:00am. Hence, the claim of subsurface losses coincident
222 with the earthquake must be considered as unreliable and unverified, with the
223 provided supporting data being contradictory, or at least ambiguous, to the claim.

224
225 **Claim 2:** Following the key event in which the well experienced “total loss of
226 circulation and 130 bbls (21670 l) mud loss at 12:50pm on the 27th May 2006, the
227 losses were cured and “well static for 7 h without any further loss or kick”.

228

229 **Why it matters:** Total loss of circulation indicates that all mud added to the well is
230 lost to the surrounding formations. Significant and ongoing losses can lead to
231 insufficient mud weight, which can cause a kick.

232
233 **The evidence:** he daily mud engineer report states that a total of 607 barrels of
234 mud were lost in the 24 hour period covering the total losses, including 142 barrels
235 lost during the subsequent pull-out-of-hole (POOH) operations (Sawolo et al., 2009).
236 The daily reports do not state the mud amount during the total loss event, but the
237 mud engineer's report suggests the losses at terminal depth (TD) were up to 465
238 barrels (Sawolo et al., 2009). The daily drilling report also states that 600 barrels of
239 new mud were made and transferred to the surface mud tanks after the losses, and
240 prior to POOH, which further suggests that losses were significantly greater than the
241 130 bbls claimed by Sawolo et al. (2009).

242
243 Most significantly, the claim that these losses were cured, and no further losses
244 occurred, is directly contradicted by the daily reports. When the losses occurred, the
245 drillers "*spotted 60 barrels of LCM (Lost Circulation Material)*" while pulling out of
246 hole to 8737 feet, and then monitored the well as being static (Figure 2). However,
247 pumping a slug of concentrated LCM may only temporarily slow losses, and pulling
248 back the drill-bit away from the loss zone can make losses harder to detect. As
249 stated previously, the mud engineer report states "*Total mud loss along POOH (pull*
250 *out of hole) = 142 bbls (barrels)*" between 22:00 on the 27th of May and 05:00 on the
251 28th of May (meaning that losses continued while pulling out of hole). Furthermore,
252 the reports state that, while pulling out of hole, "*total volume displacement hard to*
253 *counter*" (unable to keep the hole full of mud) and "*circulated at 8100 feet with 50%*
254 *returns*" (meaning that half of the mud being pumped into the hole was being lost
255 into the formation). Both statements, and the mud engineers report, clearly
256 demonstrate that losses were ongoing while pulling out of hole, and that the losses
257 at TD were not fully cured (Sawolo et al., 2009; Adams, 2006).

258
259 **Conclusion:** The claim is partially correct, but the data and statements in reports
260 directly contradict the claim that the losses were fully stopped, and rather suggest
261 the losses were only temporarily stopped or slowed. Indeed, the daily drilling and
262 mud engineer reports clearly state that losses were ongoing while pulling out of
263 hole (Figure 3). Furthermore, data in the drilling reports suggests that the loss was
264 more significant than claimed in Sawolo et al. (2009).

265
266 **Claim 3:** *Following the kick, the well was dead. "Well kicked, shut in and kill well" at*
267 *07:30, and also at 07:50 "well kicked" and "Shut BOP to stop further influx". "Well dead"*
268 *at 08:05am.*

269
270 **Why it matters:** If the kick was not completely controlled, a subsurface blowout
271 could occur, in which formation fluid entering the wellbore generates overpressure,
272 with the potential to propagate fractures away from the wellbore, leading to a
273 subsurface blowout.

274

275 **The evidence:** There are contradictory reports of the timing of the kick. The
276 chronology provided by Sawolo et al. (2009) suggests that two kicks occurred, one
277 at 7:30 am and one at 7:50 am, with the blow out preventers (BOP) shut-in and
278 killed both times. Yet, daily reports only report one kick. The kick was first reported
279 as “*well flowing*” at ~06:25 am, the “*well kicked*” at ~07:30am when fluids erupted at
280 the surface at the wellsite, and the BOP was shut-in at ~07:53 am (Sawolo et al.,
281 2009; Adams, 2006). No statements are made about why almost 90 minutes passed
282 between the kick being first detected and the BOP being shut-in, when all well
283 control procedures state that the annular BOP should be shut-in immediately upon
284 confirmation of any influx (Baker, 1998). Regardless, the key claim is that the kick
285 had been killed by ~08:50 am. This is supported by the data in Sawolo et al. (2009)
286 showing that the BOP was open and the well could be circulated between ~12:30
287 pm and 14:20 on the 28th of May 2006. Again, however, this evidence is incomplete,
288 and the drilling reports and data contradict the claim that the kick was fully killed,
289 and instead suggest that the kick was only temporarily controlled.

290
291 Sawolo et al. (2009) present key data for casing and drill pipe pressures, active flow,
292 and trip tank volume in their Figure 9. Sawolo et al., (2009) Figure 9 presents two
293 pressure-time plots, a short zoomed in chart (time from -20 to 200 minutes) in
294 which the ‘time zero’ starts when the BOP is shut-in at ~07:53, and an extended
295 time chart (0-1500 minutes) in which the ‘time zero’ is ~50 minutes before the BOP
296 is closed and thus shows wellbore pressures from ~07:00am on the 28th of May to
297 09:00am on the 29th of May 2006. This is the essential data for analyzing the
298 subsurface conditions during the kick and afterwards. The casing pressure is the
299 fluid pressure in the annulus measured at the surface. The drill pipe pressure is the
300 pressure measured in the drill string at the surface (which is in communication with
301 the wellbore via the drill-bit). Both pressure gauges show changes in fluid pressure
302 in the wellbore, and are particularly important in periods when the BOPs are closed.
303 The wellbore is isolated when the BOP is closed, and thus changes in the drill-pipe
304 or casing pressure are caused by fluid entering (pressure increases) or leaving
305 (pressure reductions) the wellbore. When the BOP is closed, fluids can enter the
306 wellbore (pressures increase) by either being deliberately pumped into the
307 wellbore from the surface (via the drill-pipe or via kill lines in the BOP), or by high-
308 pressure subsurface fluids entering the wellbore as a kick. Fluids can leave the
309 wellbore (pressure drops) by either the pressures being bleed off through the
310 surface well control equipment (specifically the choke lines and manifold system),
311 or by fluids exiting the wellbore into the formation via losses into faults, fractures or
312 subsurface permeable zones. Hence, the data in Figure 9 in Sawolo et al. (2009) can
313 be carefully analyzed, and changes in subsurface pressures can be checked to see
314 whether they indicate well control activities on the surface (pumping or bleeding off
315 of pressures) or whether the changes in pressure indicate subsurface fluids flowing
316 into or out of the wellbore.

317
318 The casing and drill-pipe pressure data show a period during which the drill pipe
319 pressure increases for 40-60 minutes after shut-in (~08:30-08:50 am). This is a
320 period when there is no pumping, and thus the pressure increase can only occur if

321 the kick is ongoing. The BOP was shut in again at ~14:20 pm as a “safety measure”,
322 when the ability to circulate the well ceased. However, immediately after shutting in
323 the well at 14:20 pm, there is a period of approximately an hour when the drill pipe
324 pressure gradually increases, from ~450 to ~510 minutes in Figure 9 of Sawolo et al.
325 (2009), during a period with no pumping (zero flow into well), which demonstrates
326 that an influx (kick) is occurring. Indeed, the data also shows that fluid is flowing out
327 of the well at ~200 gallons per minute over this time period, despite there being no
328 fluid pumped into the well and pressures increasing – indicating that subsurface
329 fluids are still flowing into the well from a kick, and were being removed from the
330 well via the choke and manifold. In addition, there are short pressure anomalies
331 reported at ~16:30 pm and ~18:00 pm on the 28th of May, as well as ~03:00 am on
332 the 29th of May. These multiple sharp increases in downhole pressure, when the
333 well was shut-in and there was no pumping, are clear evidence that the kick was still
334 ongoing throughout the 28th of May and into the 29th of May. Furthermore, the final
335 downhole pressure increase, from approximately 02:30-04:00 am on the 29th of May,
336 was associated with detection of H₂S from somewhere outside the well area (Figure
337 4), and, according to the daily drilling reports, appears to be the time at which the
338 Lusi eruption commenced at the surface just “40 ft SW of the flare” pit at the well site
339 (though the eruption was not visually confirmed and reported until sunrise
340 approximately 1 hour later; Sawolo et al., 2009). It should also be noted that the drill
341 pipe pressure registered non-zero values throughout most of the period after
342 circulation ceased at ~14:30 pm, including periods after the drill string pressures
343 had been bled back to zero. The drill pipe pressure should record values of zero
344 continuously if the well was dead – the positive values and increases in pressure
345 without pumping are conclusive evidence that the kick was never fully stopped.

346
347 There is a third series of observations from BJP-1 that further confirm that the kick
348 was not killed, and likely also explain why the influx temporarily ceased on the 28th
349 of May 2006. The daily drilling reports repeatedly indicate that there was large
350 amounts of debris in the wellbore, which is common during kicks and blowouts as
351 fragments of the wellbore wall break away and become entrained due to the flow of
352 high pressure fluids. For example, the drill string became stuck, due to the
353 accumulation subsurface debris around the bottom-hole assembly, at approximately
354 noon on the 28th of May (Sawolo et al., 2009). The drillers then lost the ability to
355 circulate fluids at approximately 14:30 on the 28th of May, which indicates the
356 wellbore annulus above the drill-bit had become completely packed-off by low-
357 permeability (presumably clay-rich) debris (Sawolo et al., 2009). The continued
358 packing-off of debris around the bottom-hole assembly during the morning of the
359 28th of May is further evidence that deep pressures were continuing to push
360 material up the wellbore and that the kick had not been killed as claimed. Finally, a
361 ‘free-point indicator tool’ was run on the 31st of May, and observed that debris had
362 been pushed up the wellbore to at least 285-495m above the drill bit in the days
363 after the kick (Sawolo et al., 2009). Indeed, a zone of 100% blockage from debris
364 was found at 2600 feet, which is inside the steel 13-3/8” casing (Sawolo et al., 2009;
365 Tingay, 2015). This confirms that debris had been continuously pushed up the

366 wellbore, and even pushed up to over 100 m inside the casing, in the days after the
367 kick began.

368

369 The observations of large amounts of debris in the wellbore, and the recorded build-
370 up and movement of this debris over time, is additional clear evidence that the kick
371 could not have been killed on the morning of the 28th of May. Furthermore, this
372 offers a likely explanation for why the kick has been incorrectly claimed to have
373 been killed on the morning of the 28th of May, and why the well could be partially
374 circulated and BOPs opened for a brief period on the 28th of May. The movement of
375 large amounts of debris in the wellbore is common during kicks and blowouts, and
376 often causes what are termed 'bridges', in which debris builds up and forms
377 temporary or permanent blockages in the wellbore. Indeed, it is not uncommon for
378 blowouts to be naturally temporarily or permanently killed through 'self-bridging',
379 such as the occurrences of temporary bridging, and then final complete bridging,
380 observed in the Alborz-5 blowout in Iran (Mostofi and Gansser, 1957; Gretener,
381 1982). Given the amount of debris observed in the BJP-1 wellbore, it is entirely
382 plausible that a temporary bridging of the BJP-1 well occurred at some depth below
383 the drill bit in BJP-1 during the kick on the 28th of May. Such a bridge would give the
384 appearance that the kick had ceased or significantly reduced at the drill-bit, but the
385 kick would still be ongoing below the blockage. – However, such an apparent 'well
386 dead' situation will only last until the blockage breaks-up and the debris gets
387 pushed further up the wellbore.

388

389 **Conclusion:** The claim that the kick was killed by 08:50 am is not supported by the
390 data in Sawolo et al. (2009). There is evidence to suggest that the kick temporarily
391 ceased, and it is correct that the well could be (partially) circulated for a brief period
392 from ~12:30 to 14:20 pm on the 28th of May. However, these short-term
393 observations were likely the result of temporary blockage in the well due to muddy
394 debris, which were pushed up the wellbore, and even into the casing, during the kick
395 and in subsequent days. The drill-pipe and casing pressure and wellbore flow data
396 conclusively demonstrate that downhole pressures continued to increase during
397 several subsequent periods in which the well was closed off and there was no
398 pumping (and also when all circulation had ceased due to well blockage around the
399 bottom-hole assembly). Furthermore, there are clear extended periods when fluids
400 are flowing rapidly out of the well, despite there being no pumping of mud into the
401 well, which can only happen if a kick is still ongoing. These downhole pressure
402 increases are conclusive evidence that the kick was still occurring underground
403 until at least the morning of the 29th of May, with the pressure variations in the well
404 ceasing exactly when Lusi was born at the surface. These periods of influx are
405 separated by periods of downhole losses, discussed in the next claim, and suggest
406 repeated cycles of kick followed by fracturing and fracture propagation in the well.
407 Furthermore, the increase, and then sudden drop to zero, in wellbore pressure early
408 on the 29th of May 2006 (which coincided with a surface release of H₂S and the birth
409 of Lusi at the surface), indicates that the well directly witnessed the birth of Lusi at
410 the surface and that the well was in communication with Lusi (see Claim 7).

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Claim 4: *“The well was intact” and was not fractured during the kick, and “a sustained pressure to propagate a fracture” did not exist (Miller and Mazzini, 2017).*

Why it matters: In a subsurface blowout, overpressures in the wellbore drive the propagation of fractures from the uncased region of the wellbore to the surface. If the integrity of the well had been compromised and elevated pressures were maintained, a mechanism existed for fractures to propagate to the surface.

The evidence: There are two arguments claiming that the BJP-1 wellbore was not fractured during the kick, which would indicate that drilling was not responsible for triggering Lusi. The first argument is the claim by Sawolo et al. (2009) that pressures during the kick did not exceed the leak-off pressure at the 13-3/8” casing shoe. The second argument is the claim in Sawolo et al. (2009) and Miller and Mazzini (2017) that there was no observed connection between pumping in BJP-1 and the Lusi eruption. This second argument will be addressed in Claim 7 below, using statements in the daily drilling reports that specifically indicate a direct connection between BJP-1 and the Lusi vent.

The debate about whether the BJP-1 wellbore was intact during and after the kick has previously centered on whether or not the pressures within the borehole during the kick exceeded the leak-off test pressure at the 13-3/8” casing shoe (Davies et al., 2008; Tingay et al., 2008; Sawolo et al., 2009; Davies et al., 2010). The debate highlights the uncertainty that can exist in calculating kick pressures via different methods and on differing interpretations of the leak-off test data. Furthermore, this earlier debate examined only whether tensile fracturing occurred during the kick, whereas most drilling-triggering interpretations since 2009 have proposed that shear fracturing occurred, which better agrees with other evidence and is more geomechanically likely (Tingay, 2010; Tingay, 2016). This specific debate, however, is rendered entirely moot by the statements and observations made in the drilling reports and the data presented in Sawolo et al. (2009), which clearly show that large underground losses occurred in BJP-1 at numerous times during and after the kick, and thus demonstrate that the well was fractured.

The daily drilling report at noon on the 28th of May states *“Observed well through trip tank, total lost since 05:00 hrs around 300 bbls” (Figure 4)*, which indicates that 300 barrels of drilling mud were lost underground in the period during which the kick occurred (Sawolo et al., 2009). The daily mud engineer report states that only 20 barrels of mud were lost underground during the pull out of hole operations from 5 am until the kick (Sawolo et al., 2009). Thus the reports clearly state that 280 barrels of drilling mud were lost underground from the wellbore during the kick, and thus that wellbore integrity was breached. There are further losses reported downhole, with the daily mud report stating *“loss during circulated (sic) to release stuck: 287 bbls (which took place from noon to 20:00 on the 28th May), Loss during Spot Hivis: 102 bbls”* (which occurred between 22:00 on the 28th May to 02:00 on the 29th of May). These statements confirm that losses occurred underground in BJP-1

458 both during the initial kick and at periods for almost an entire day after the well was
459 claimed by Sawolo et al. (2009) to be “dead”.

460

461 Periods of underground losses, and thus loss of wellbore integrity, are also visible in
462 the pressure and flow data presented in Figure 9 of Sawolo et al. (2009). As
463 discussed in Claim 3, the wellbore was open and could be circulated from ~12:30
464 pm and 14:20 pm on the 28th of May 2006. However, the flow data in Sawolo et al.
465 (2009) figure 9 demonstrate that this was partial circulation, with only between 40-
466 60% of the fluid being pumped down the well actually returning to the surface, and
467 thus suggesting 40-60% loss of fluids underground. During the kick, there is a
468 period from ~09:15 to 10:00 am on the 28th of May during which the drill pipe
469 pressure decreases, despite the kick being ongoing at this time and the wellbore
470 being sealed. Such a loss of pressure from a sealed system can only indicate that
471 fluids are being lost underground. Similar events are observed after other influx
472 events highlighted in Claim 3 above. Pressures gradually reduce from ~15:30 to
473 16:30 pm (510-570 minutes in the graph) after the pressure increase during the
474 influx that occurred from ~14:30-15:10 pm. Drill pipe pressures also gradually
475 reduce between ~16:30 and ~21:30 pm on the 28th of May. During both periods, it
476 is again clear that the pressure in the well is reducing slowly, despite the well being
477 sealed, which demonstrates, and further confirms the drilling report statements,
478 that ongoing underground losses occurred both during the kick and for a long
479 period afterwards. Hence, all evidence demonstrates that significant losses occurred
480 in the ~19 hours from when the kick commenced and Lusi first erupted, and thus
481 well integrity was breached.

482

483 The long period of high, but gradually reducing drill pipe pressure from ~16:30 to
484 ~21:30 on the 28th of May is also important, as it directly refutes the claim made in
485 Miller and Mazzini (2017) that there was no pressure underground to propagate a
486 fracture, and that fracture propagation would be arrested as fluid pressure was
487 reduced by increasing fracture volume. However, over this entire 5 hour period, the
488 drill pipe pressure (measured at the surface) is 500-600 psi, and indicates that the
489 wellbore was exposed to approximately the equivalent pressure observed during
490 the initial kick event, which was sufficient to exceed the fracture pressure as
491 evidenced by the daily drilling report’s stated losses during the kick. Furthermore,
492 the drill pipe pressure downhole is gradually decreasing, indicating that losses are
493 occurring. This pressure-time pattern is consistent with observations during large-
494 scale hydraulic fracture tests, when large volumes of fluid are pumped into a well
495 and drive fracture growth (Warpinski, 1989; Zoback, 2007). Hydraulic fracture
496 stimulation involves a period of ‘fracture propagation’, in which a high, but slowly
497 reducing, pressure is maintained, with the gradual pressure drop related to the
498 increase in fracture volume (Cornet et al., 2007). Hence, the data in Sawolo et al.
499 (2009) indicate that there were long periods, including one of over 5 hours in length,
500 in which sustained pressures existed in the well that were sufficient to fracture the
501 rocks, and record gradual pressure drops that are consistent with losses and
502 fracture propagation. Miller and Mazzini (2017) claim that the drill pipe pressures
503 should read zero if the well integrity was breached, yet this claim is completely

504 inconsistent with observations in wells that are undergoing kicks or being fracture
505 stimulated (Baker, 1998; Cornet et al., 2007). Indeed, the drill pipe pressures would
506 only ever be expected to return to zero if they are manually bled off at the surface,
507 or if a fracture is propagated to the surface, which is what was observed in the drill
508 pipe pressures early on the morning of the 29th of May 2006, when Lusi first erupted
509 next to the drilling lease (see Claim 6).

510

511 **Conclusion:** The claim that the well was intact and not fractured during the kick is
512 demonstrably false. The drilling reports clearly state that large scale losses occurred
513 underground during the initial kick and at multiple times afterwards, which can
514 only occur if wellbore integrity has been lost. These statements in the drilling
515 reports are directly confirmed by the pressure and flow data presented by Sawolo et
516 al. (2009). Prior debates, which only focused on differing interpretations of the
517 subsurface kick and leak-off pressures, are largely irrelevant, because the drilling
518 reports state, and the well data confirm, that substantial losses occurred
519 underground during and after the kick. Furthermore, there is a repeated pattern of
520 periods of kick followed by periods of losses, which is consistent with fracturing and
521 fracture propagation.

522

523 **Claim 5:** *“No Lusi mud exited the borehole, and no oil-based drilling mud was*
524 *observed (and would have been easily detected) mixing with the Lusi mud. This*
525 *demonstrates two isolated systems” (Miller and Mazzini, 2017).*

526

527 **Why it matters:** The direct detection of Lusi mud in the borehole or the eruption of
528 oil-based drilling mud would be a clear indication of a pathway between the
529 borehole and the eruption during its initial stage.

530

531 **The evidence:** Reports indicate that >360 barrels of contaminated mud and water
532 erupted from the wellsite. The mud that erupted from Lusi is composed of water
533 and clay, and the fluids erupted from BJP-1 were also almost entirely saline water
534 mixed with clay. Indeed, the erupted water during the kick has the same density
535 (which reflects clay content and water salinity) as the samples of initial mud
536 erupted from Lusi (Sawolo et al., 2009). The drilling trigger model also does not
537 require mud to erupt from BJP-1, as it proposes that the deep water primarily
538 becomes entrained with mud as it passes through faults/fractures en-route to the
539 surface. The low permeability of the Kalibeng clays means that the kick waters
540 would not be expected to entrain large amounts of clay as they flow up the wellbore.
541 Hence, the muddy formation waters that erupted from BJP-1 during the kick are
542 entirely consistent with the drilling-trigger model. This claim also ignores the H₂S
543 observations in both the initial erupted fluids and kick fluids, covered in Claim 11
544 below, that indicate a mutual source of the kick fluids and Lusi’s initial erupting
545 fluids (Sawolo et al., 2009; Tingay et al., 2015).

546

547 The total amount of oil based drilling mud required to fill the BJP-1 annulus, and
548 subsequently pumped into BJP-1 during well control, is only ~150 m³, and was lost
549 in multiple periods over ~48 hours following the kick. Only 6 samples of Lusi mud,

550 collected between 66 and 72 hours after Lusi commenced erupting, were analyzed
551 in this period (Sawolo et al., 2009). These samples were collected significantly after
552 any drilling mud from BJP-1 would have been expected to have erupted from Lusi.
553 Furthermore, an estimated 137,500-150,000 m³ of mud would have erupted from
554 Lusi by the time these Lusi mud samples were collected based on estimated initial
555 discharge rate of 50,000 m³/day (Istadi et al., 2009). Hence, it is expected that
556 drilling mud would constitute <0.1% of the total volume erupted by Lusi at the
557 times the samples were collected. Given the extremely low relative proportion of
558 drilling mud to erupted mud, and the timing at which Lusi mud samples were
559 collected, it is hardly surprising that traces of drilling mud were not observed.

560

561 **Conclusion:** The claim by Sawolo et al. (2009) and Miller and Mazzini (2017) is
562 erroneous and/or misleading. The absence of a detection of drilling mud in the
563 initial erupted products cannot be interpreted as a strong evidence of a lack of
564 connection between BJP-1 and the nascent eruption, as drilling mud would
565 constitute only a negligible amount of the erupted fluids at the time of sampling.
566 Subsurface fluids did erupt at the BJP-1 wellsite during the kick, and these fluids
567 have properties and descriptions consistent with the initial waters erupted from
568 Lusi. The detection of H₂S in both the kick fluids and initial eruption (and absence of
569 large amounts of H₂S in any of the formations encountered when drilling the known
570 mud source region, the Kalibeng shales), is a strong indication of a common origin of
571 these fluids (see Claim 11 below).

572

573 **Claim 6:** *“The mud first appeared about 700 m from the borehole, and the second*
574 *appearance was also about 700 m from the borehole and about 350 m west of the first*
575 *sighting. The third appearance was about 100 m from the borehole, while no mud was*
576 *observed exiting the open borehole. Finally, mud appeared another 150 m, then 300 m*
577 *from the borehole.”*

578

579 **Why it matters:** Miller and Mazzini (2017) argue that the initial eruption began
580 further from BJP-1, and that the eruption close to BJP-1 was just a later coincidence.
581 The initial location of the eruption could provide important insight into the cause of
582 the eruption (Figure 7).

583

584 **The evidence:** There is no evidence to support this unreferenced and
585 unsubstantiated claim in Miller and Mazzini (2017). The most reliable published
586 source of information on initial vent locations is the daily drilling reports and raw
587 data in Sawolo et al., (2009). The first indication of Lusi occurs between
588 approximately 03:00 – 04:00 am (during the night) on the 29th of May, when there is
589 a sharp drill pipe pressure spike and then drop in the BJP-1 wellbore, coincident
590 with 35 ppm H₂S being detected at the surface. The source of H₂S was tracked down
591 and located between 4:30-05:00 am (approximately day-break), with the first
592 recorded observation of the Lusi eruption, which is stated in the daily drilling
593 reports as erupting 5 ppm H₂S bubbles located just “40ft outside flare” (or
594 approximately 100m from the BJP-1 well) (Figure 4). This is further confirmed in
595 the mud logger’s report for the 24-hour period ending at 5 am on May 30, which

596 states “Got craters at outside of rig site (H₂S 700 ppm) & flood on wet rice field”
597 (Sawolo et al., 2009). The daily drilling reports do not note the initiation of
598 additional, further away, eruptions until the 31st of May, where the report states
599 “Total of five sources, blew up for the time being, with half foot high, continued blew”
600 (Figure 6). The drilling report for the 2nd of June then states “Cracker channel still
601 blew up contaminated fluid and mud volcano, caused flow over road. Have six
602 additional sources point blew up mud vulcanic (sic), located 500 ft approximately,
603 west direction, over highway”, confirming that additional eruptions at a distance
604 from BJP-1 occurred after the first eruption adjacent to BJP-1. While there is no
605 clear or verifiable reports of the timing of additional eruptions, it is evident from the
606 daily drilling reports that the Lusi vent, only ~100m from the well, was the first
607 detected eruption (at 03:00-04:00 am) and then visually observed at ~04:30-05:00
608 am on the 29th of May. As such, the statement that the first Lusi eruptions were 700
609 m from the well is inconsistent with published observations on the day. Indeed,
610 Miller and Mazzini (2017) offer no references or evidence to support their claim
611 that other eruptions occurred first, and it seems highly unlikely that such eruptions
612 would have been observed prior to day-break on the 29th of May 2006..

613
614 **Conclusion:** All available evidence suggests that the initial eruption of fluids,
615 including H₂S, occurred much closer to the drill rig (~100 m away from BJP-1) at
616 between 03:00-05:00 am on the 29th of May 2006 (Figure 4). Miller and Mazzini
617 (2017) offer no evidence to support their claim that the first two eruptions of Lusi
618 occurred ~700 m from Lusi, nor that the eruption 100 m from Lusi was the third
619 eruption site. We suggest that the first documented observations of Lusi in the BJP-1
620 daily drilling reports be considered to mark the time and place of Lusi’s birth.

621
622 **Claim 7:** “High injection test pressures on the well confirmed that the shoe was intact
623 and there were no channels formed between the well and the eruption.” (Sawolo et al.,
624 2009) and “Three high pressure injection tests performed after a reported kick showed
625 sustained pressures (up to 8 MPa), demonstrated conclusively that the borehole was
626 intact and the well had been successfully killed” (Miller and Mazzini, 2017).

627
628 **Why it matters:** If the wellbore was still intact while the eruption was ongoing, this
629 could be an indication that the well and the eruption were unconnected and
630 unrelated, as claimed by Miller and Mazzini (2017). However, evidence of a direct
631 connection between the wellbore and Lusi eruption would strongly support the
632 drilling trigger argument.

633
634 **The evidence:** This claim is directly contradicted by the daily drilling reports. These
635 reports document that a direct connection between the BJP-1 well and Lusi eruption
636 was observed in association with three separate periods of pumping into the BJP-1
637 well. The drillers on BJP-1 made three attempts to pump high density fluid into BJP-
638 1 in an attempt to kill the Lusi eruption. The first such test was at ~06:30 am on the
639 29th of May, in which 130 barrels of mud, followed by a second batch of 100 barrels,
640 with a density of 14.7 ppg (1.76 sg) were pumped down the drill pipe. The daily
641 drilling report states that before pumping the Lusi vent was erupting as follows:

642 *“Gas and water bubbles blew intermittently with maximum height of 25 ft, and elapse*
643 *time 5 minutes between bubble”* (Sawolo et al., 2009; Figure 5). However, while
644 pumping, the drilling report states that *“Bubbles intensity reduced and elapse time*
645 *between each bubble is longer. Observed maximum bubble of 8 ft height occasionally,*
646 *normally one (1) foot height, with 30 minutes elapse time between each bubble”*
647 (Figure 5). Hence, the drilling report clearly states that Lusi eruption activity was
648 reduced by this first period of pumping into BJP-1.

649
650 Similar observations were made during the second injection test, which occurred
651 between 22:30 pm and 23:30 pm on the 29th of May, and involved pumping 200
652 barrels of 16.0 ppg (1.91 sg) drilling mud with concentrated loss circulation
653 material at a rate of 4 barrels per minute. The daily drilling report states that
654 immediately after this test *“No more high intensity bubbles arose after spotting LCM.*
655 *However approximately half foot bubbles occasionally came to the surface”* (Figure 5).
656 Hence, Lusi activity is specifically stated to have been reduced by the second period
657 of pumping into BJP-1. It should also be noted that all of this pumped drilling mud
658 was lost downhole, further confirming that the wellbore had lost integrity (see
659 Claim 4).

660
661 The third period of pumping commenced at 05:00 am on the 30th of May and was
662 designed to try and plug off the BJP-1 wellbore below the drill-bit. This third period
663 of pumping involved first pumping a 20 barrel slug of cement (15.8 ppg; 1.89 sg)
664 into the wellbore, followed by 150 barrels of mud (16.0 ppg; 1.91 sg) at four barrels
665 per minute to displace (push) the cement slug down into the wellbore below the
666 drill bit (pumping would normally push cement up the annulus above the drill bit,
667 but the hole was completely packed off around the bottom hole assembly at this
668 time, thus forcing fluid and the cement plug downwards). After pumping the cement
669 plug and high density displacement mud, the daily drilling report states *“WOC (wait*
670 *on cement) while observing the well and bubbles activity at distance from the rig.*
671 *Bubbles already decreased in activity since last night”* (Figure 6), which again clearly
672 reports that pumping into the BJP-1 well resulted in an observable reduction in the
673 Lusi eruption.

674
675 The well reports clearly show three instances when injection of high-density mud
676 and, finally, cement into BJP-1 was observed to cause a temporary reduction in flow
677 rate at the Lusi vent. It should be noted that Sawolo et al. (2009) make a brief
678 attempt to dismiss these three statements of reported connection between BJP-1
679 and Lusi as being purely “coincidental”, but provide no actual evidence to support
680 that claim. The daily drilling reports were signed off as being accurate by the
681 authors of those reports, and by other drilling personnel. Hence, statements in the
682 daily drilling reports can only be dismissed with direct evidence, especially when
683 these three statements so strongly indicate the well’s culpability in initiating the
684 eruption. Instead, rather than examine these first tests, Sawolo et al. (2009) and
685 Miller and Mazzini (2017) focus on only one later injection test, which was
686 conducted after the wellbore around the drill-bit was plugged with cement.
687

688 An additional 100 barrel cement plug (with 110 barrels of displacement mud) was
689 pumped at ~22:30 pm on the 30th of May 2006 (Lusi vent activity is not stated
690 following this test, and thus it is not known whether or not this test had any effect
691 on the Lusi eruption). The injection test focused on by Sawolo et al. (2009) and
692 Miller and Mazzini (2017) was then subsequently made, in which just 8 barrels of
693 mud were pumped at 1 barrel per minute. However, this injection test was
694 specifically conducted to test whether the prior two cement plugs had sealed off the
695 well below the drill bit. The stated observation of high pressure build up during this
696 brief injection test simply confirms that the cement plugs placed previously had set,
697 and had effectively sealed off the drill-bit (at ~1275 m depth) from the long open
698 hole section underneath (which extends to ~2833 m, and in which the blowout was
699 free to continue). As such, the injection test does not provide any evidence to
700 support or refute the connection between the wellbore and BJP-1, as the wellbore
701 had been plugged by cement at some depth below the drill bit.

702
703 **Conclusion:** The claims of no observed connection between the Lusi eruption and
704 pumping in BJP-1 are completely contradictory to the statements in Lapindo
705 Brantas drilling reports. There were three periods of pumping of high-density fluid
706 and cement, and the daily drilling reports specifically state that flow rates and
707 eruption activity at the Lusi vent were noticeably reduced by each of these first
708 three pumping stages. The documented direct connection between the wellbore and
709 the Lusi eruption only ceased after cement plugs were placed in the well
710 immediately below the drill bit, isolating the drill bit from the kick that was still
711 occurring below the cement plug. The direct connection between Lusi and BJP-1
712 documented in the daily drilling reports is further confirmed by the observation of
713 pressure spikes and drops in the BJP-1 well at ~03:00-04:00am on the 29th of May,
714 which coincided with the first eruption of Lusi at the surface (see Claim 3 above).

715
716 The unambiguous statements by Miller and Mazzini (2017) and Sawolo et al. (2009)
717 that there were no observed connections between the BJP-1 well and Lusi vent
718 conflict directly with three such instances specifically reported in the daily reports.
719 These statements in the daily drilling reports possibly constitute the most clear and
720 direct evidence that the kick in BJP-1 was responsible for the Lusi eruption – yet
721 Sawolo et al. (2009) and Miller and Mazzini (2017) not only ignore these statements,
722 but make specific claims that are the exact opposite of what the daily drilling reports
723 observed. Furthermore, these three instances of observed direct connection
724 between the wellbore and Lusi eruption contradict and refute all arguments made
725 by Miller and Mazzini (2017) that the wellbore was too insignificant to affect the
726 eruption.

727
728

729 **Claim 8:** *“A great deal of effort has been expended on the minutiae of borehole*
730 *observations, but at the scale of Fig. 6A the borehole sampled less than 0.02 percent of*
731 *the affected region. That is, 99.98% of the affected region was not sampled, so*
732 *concluding anything about the regional scale from borehole observations is certainly*
733 *not warranted.”*

734

735 **Why it matters:** On the basis of scale alone, Miller and Mazzini (2017) appear to be
736 claiming that data from the BJP-1 wellbore is not relevant to understanding the Lusi
737 system. This claim also suggests BJP-1 must be inconsequential, because Lusi
738 eruptions occurred in a number of locations (up to 700m from BJP-1), despite there
739 being any examples of drilling blowouts triggering eruptions at greater distances.

740

741 **The evidence:** The diameter of the wellbore compared to the surface area covered
742 by the mudflow is irrelevant. The BJP-1 wellbore represents the only reliable in-situ
743 subsurface data collected for Lusi, and also the only data in the immediate vicinity
744 and depth ranges that were collected prior to the disaster. The borehole was located
745 ~100 m from the first Lusi eruption and was in the optimal position to provide
746 baseline information and also to witness any subsurface effects both before the
747 surface eruption and in the days after (Figure 4). Indeed, as highlighted in prior
748 claims, the pressure data in the BJP-1 borehole appears to have witnessed the birth
749 of Lusi on the morning of the 29th of May 2006, and also showed a documented
750 direct connection between Lusi and pumping in BJP-1 (Claim 7).

751

752 **Conclusion:** We recognize that the geochemical and other sampling and fieldwork
753 collected by all researchers studying Lusi are valuable and important, as is the
754 unique dataset provided by the BJP-1 well (and other wells in close proximity to
755 Lusi). All data and records and observations of the Lusi eruption need to be
756 considered when studying this disaster, and we recommend that no data be
757 dismissed without valid scientific justification.

758

759 **Claim 9:** “If drilling were the trigger, Lusi would represent the only example in
760 geological history of a tectonically driven system conceived from a 30 cm diameter
761 borehole” and “We recognize that blowouts sometimes occur and breach the surface
762 away from the drill hole, such as occurred Brunei in 1974 and 1979 the Brunei
763 example is not relevant to Lusi”.

764

765 **Why it matters:** Lessons learned from analogue systems provide insight and
766 perspectives. If nothing like Lusi has ever been caused by drilling accidents then
767 other blowout-induced surface eruptions may not be applicable. The drilling-trigger
768 argument may seem less plausible if there are no precedents.

769

770 **The evidence:** Surface eruptions resulting from underground blowouts have been
771 documented on numerous occasions, with some instances of eruptions occurring
772 several kilometers from the drilling location, as well as blowouts and eruptions
773 being long-lived. Famous examples include the Frade blowout offshore Brazil in
774 2011 and Platform A blowout offshore Santa Barbara, California in 1969. The
775 authors propose that the documented Champion-41 and Champion 141 blowouts
776 offshore Brunei, often considered to be analogous to Lusi, should not be considered
777 relevant on the basis of a fallacious argument that these blowouts occurred in an oil
778 field.

779

780 The location of the Champion blowouts within an oil field is completely irrelevant.
781 The Champion blowouts were primarily water blowouts (not oil or gas) that lasted
782 20 years, and are thus directly analogous to Lusi. Indeed, the first detailed
783 publication on these blowouts (made prior to the Lusi eruption) specifically
784 documents how these blowouts are highly analogous to mud volcano systems
785 (Tingay et al., 2003). There are numerous parallels between Lusi and the Champion
786 blowouts, as both events occurred while drilling through highly overpressured and
787 competent rocks when a water kick occurred (Tingay et al., 2003; Tingay, 2015).
788 Both wells suffered a series of losses followed by a major kick. The Lusi eruption
789 and Champion blowouts occurred at a distance from where the well was located,
790 and resulted in a long linearly aligned series of eruptions (Tingay et al., 2005).
791 Finally, both the Lusi eruption and Champion underground blowout have been long
792 lived, with the Champion Blowouts lasting 20 years (Tingay et al., 2003).

793

794 It makes little sense to dismiss any blowout incident purely due to the well being
795 located within an area of oil production or exploration. Mud volcanoes are
796 commonly observed in oil fields, and are often linked to hydrocarbon systems.
797 Indeed, hydrocarbons have also flowed from Lusi¹. Furthermore, the Lusi eruption
798 is in very close proximity to the producing Wunut and Tanggulangin hydrocarbon
799 fields. Finally, blowout related eruptions have been observed numerous times, and
800 so there is clear precedent for the drilling trigger model for Lusi. Indeed, there are
801 four other known mud eruptions triggered by drilling in Indonesia alone, namely
802 the 1997 Dieng-24 (Figure 8) and 2008 Gresik mud eruptions in Java¹, a December
803 2015 mud eruption from geothermal drilling in Sulawesi² and a mud volcano in
804 Samarinda Ulu in East Kalimantan³. According to media reports in January 2016,
805 this East Kalimantan mud volcano continues to show activity over 20 years after it
806 was triggered⁴.

807

808 **Conclusion:** There is no basis to Miller and Mazzini's (2017) claim that long-lived
809 mud eruptions have never been triggered by drilling activities. Miller and Mazzini
810 (2017) used invalid and incorrect assumptions to dismiss the many blowouts that
811 are analogous to Lusi, particularly the Champion blowouts. There is extensive
812 precedence to support the drilling-trigger model for Lusi.

813

814 **Claim 10:** "The arguments for, and support of, a drilling-trigger follows a familiar
815 pattern. The authors make a statement in a publication, without clear supporting

¹ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/indonesian-mud-volcano-also-spewed-oil/>

² <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2009/01/02/caution-urged-gresik-drilling.html?1>

³ <http://banjarmasin.tribunnews.com/2015/12/21/lumpur-panas-tiba-tiba-menyembur-warga-takut-seperti-lapindo>

⁴ <http://kaltim.tribunnews.com/2016/01/19/mud-vulcano-samarinda-kembali-menyembur-setelah-20-tahun-tak-aktif?page=3>

816 evidence, and then in all subsequent publications cite this previous work (also
817 without evidence) as established proof. By the fourth publication, the original
818 unsubstantiated statement becomes a “laundered” and indisputable fact.”

819

820 **Why it matters:** This claim is extremely serious because it implies that scientific
821 fraud was committed.

822

823 **The evidence:** Miller and Mazzini (2017) use two specific examples to attempt to
824 demonstrate this claim. The first example is the reported 20 barrels of losses being
825 synchronous with the Yogyakarta earthquake, and how this is disputed in Tingay
826 (2015). In Claim 1, it is explained that it is uncertain whether these losses occurred
827 underground and that there is also an obvious discrepancy between when the losses
828 are claimed to have occurred and the data shown on the chart, especially the depth
829 at which the losses occurred (which was drilled over an hour prior to when the
830 losses are claimed to have occurred). The arguments, evidence and sources
831 summarized in Claim 1 are directly repeated from the detailed arguments and
832 evidence presented in Tingay (2015). Yet, Miller and Mazzini (2017) inexplicably
833 state that there is no basis or explanation for this claim.

834

835 The second example of what Miller and Mazzini (2017) claim is a “laundered”
836 statement is the observation of 25 ppm of H₂S in the BJP-1 well several hours prior
837 to the earthquake. Miller and Mazzini (2017) suggest that this observation never
838 happened, and claim that the only record of this 25ppm H₂S is from an unpublished
839 report (Adams, 2006). Again, this is entirely false. The 25ppm H₂S is clearly reported
840 in the Lapindo Daily Drilling Reports for the 27th of May 2006 (Sawolo et al., 2009),
841 and is simply confirmed in the detailed time line of events provided in Adams
842 (2006). The published daily drilling reports state that while drilling at 9230 ft “*the*
843 *H₂S probe sensor, located at shale shaker area, detected 25 ppm, concentrated H₂S.*
844 *Drilling crew at rig floor continued to perform job, by foolows (sic) SOP, the rest*
845 *drilling crew evacuated to briefieng (sic) point” (Figure 2). There is no obvious basis*
846 *for Miller and Mazzini (2017) to dispute this observation, nor to claim that it is from*
847 *an unreliable source.*

848

849 Miller and Mazzini (2017) further attempt to discredit the H₂S observation by
850 casting doubt on when the observation occurred. Specifically, Miller and Mazzini
851 state:

852 “there is no mention in the Adams (2006) report about what time this reading was
853 actually taken. Three hours before the earthquake was 3 am (local time), but there is
854 no document yet produced that corroborates the time that this H₂S reading was
855 taken. With no documentation, the readers are left with an act of faith in the authors,
856 or must assume that there are additional undisclosed sources that document and
857 support this claim”.

858 We contend that the drilling report (reproduced in Figure 3) is a fully disclosed and
859 reliable source of information that has been publicly available since the publication
860 of Sawolo et al. (2009).

861

862 The sources of the H₂S observation data are the BJP-1 daily drilling reports
863 published by Sawolo et al. (2009) and confirmed in Adams (2006). Miller and
864 Mazzini (2017) are correct that the daily drilling report does not specifically state
865 the time of the H₂S measurements. However, it is clearly stated in the daily drilling
866 reports that the H₂S was observed prior to 5 am, and thus definitively prior to the
867 earthquake (Figure 3). Furthermore, it is a relatively simple and routine procedure
868 to calculate the time of drilling events using the depth at which they occurred,
869 provided the timing of other proximal drilling depths is known. In this instance, the
870 daily drilling report states that the well was drilling at 9277' at the 05:00 am
871 reporting time on the 27th of May 2006. The time at which the H₂S observation at
872 9230' can then be calculated using the drilling rate of penetration information that
873 is available in the daily drilling reports and, more accurately, in the rate of
874 penetration log (both published in Sawolo et al., 2009). This routine and simple
875 calculation provides the “~02:00 am” timing for this H₂S observation stated in
876 Tingay (2015), and is expected to be accurate to within ±15 minutes. Indeed, one of
877 the main reasons why Tingay (2015) is so quoted by drilling trigger proponents is
878 that this study includes the most detailed published and peer-reviewed timeline of
879 drilling events in the BJP-1 well. This timeline was the result of an extensive and
880 careful forensic review of all available drilling reports and raw data, in which every
881 listed drilling observation was carefully checked, cross-referenced and confirmed
882 (Tingay, 2015). Furthermore, the drilling events timeline in Tingay (2015) is
883 significantly more detailed than the similar timeline provided in Sawolo et al. (2009),
884 as the timeline by Sawolo et al. (2009) omitted a large number of significant
885 observations and statements from the BJP-1 daily drilling reports.

886
887 **Conclusion:** Miller and Mazzini (2017) make an accusation of scientific fraud that
888 can be shown to be incorrect by following the refereed scientific literature. The
889 evidence that H₂S was observed in the BJP-1 borehole prior to the Yogyakarta
890 earthquake is based on specific statements in the daily drilling reports (e.g., Figure
891 3).

892
893 **Claim 11:** H₂S observations from BJP-1 and the Lusi eruption are not relevant to the
894 triggering argument.

895
896 **Why it matters:** H₂S was not measured in the Kalibeng formation, but is present in
897 deeper fluids. Detection of H₂S would support inferences that the borehole created a
898 new fluid pathway from deep sources to the Kalibeng clays and then to the surface.
899 Furthermore, observations of H₂S can be used to test whether the Kalibeng clays
900 were ‘primed’ by invasion of hydrothermal fluids prior to the Lusi eruption, which is
901 an essential requirement of the earthquake-triggering argument.

902
903 **The evidence:** In addition to questioning the occurrence and timing of the 25ppm
904 H₂S observed in BJP-1 prior to the Yogyakarta earthquake (see Claim 10 above),
905 Miller and Mazzini (2017) argue that this observation should be dismissed as being
906 just a minor amount and entirely coincidental. Miller and Mazzini (2017) make the
907 statements “what Tingay et al. (2015) also fail to acknowledge clearly is that

908 volcanic environments are where H₂S is typically present and can be found in such
909 minor amounts in any sedimentary basin worldwide” and “why would anyone be
910 surprised to detect 25 ppm of H₂S in a volcanic basin as drilling approached the
911 basement? It would probably be strange not to detect any H₂S.” In summary, Miller
912 and Mazzini (2017) dismiss the H₂S observations from BJP-1 because the
913 concentration of H₂S is low and observations of H₂S in BJP-1 are entirely
914 coincidental to the triggering of Lusi.

915

916 Miller and Mazzini (2017) are correct that H₂S is often observed in sedimentary
917 basins and volcanic environments, and H₂S is a known common hazard in the East
918 Java Basin, especially in the deep carbonates (e.g. Darmawan et al., 2011). However,
919 the claims of Miller and Mazzini (2017) do not agree with the observations during
920 drilling of the BJP-1 well, in which H₂S is only reported on three very specific
921 occasions. Furthermore, the concentrations of H₂S are irrelevant, as the key issue
922 highlighted in Tingay et al. (2015) is the observed distribution of H₂S observations
923 in BJP-1.

924

925 Before highlighting the key significance of H₂S observations in testing the drilling
926 and earthquake triggering hypotheses, it is important to note that H₂S (which is
927 both flammable and poisonous) is regarded as a significant hazard in drilling
928 operations. As evidenced from the quoted daily drilling report in claim 11, even
929 25ppm of H₂S, an apparently “minor amount” according to Miller and Mazzini
930 (2017), was sufficient to trigger the temporary evacuation of most of the rig
931 personnel, as per the rig’s standard operating procedures (SOPs; [Figure 2](#)). Indeed,
932 it is standard safety procedure during drilling that personnel are evacuated
933 whenever any amount of H₂S is detected and, because of the associated expensive
934 loss of productive time, such H₂S observations are always documented on daily
935 drilling reports. The specific make and model of the H₂S detectors used at BJP-1 are
936 unknown, but such sensors on drilling rigs are typically capable of detecting any H₂S
937 concentrations of >1ppm. Hence, it should be readily apparent that the observation
938 of any H₂S during drilling operations is regarded as a highly significant safety hazard,
939 resulting in evacuation of personnel as per SOPs, and is duly recorded in drilling
940 reports.

941

942 It is therefore significant that there are no other mentions of H₂S being observed
943 during the drilling of BJP-1 at any time between when the well was spudded on the
944 8th of March 2006 and the observation of 25ppm H₂S early in the morning of the 27th
945 of May 2006 (Adams, 2006; Tingay et al., 2015). Sawolo et al. (2009) only contains
946 the daily drilling reports from the 26th of May 2006. We have been provided with
947 the full daily drilling reports for BJP-1 by Lapindo Brantas, but do not have
948 permission to publish these herein and we suggest other researchers request these
949 reports directly from Lapindo Brantas. However, the daily drilling reports simply
950 verify the detailed summary of well activities that is publicly documented in Adams
951 (2006). Neither Adams (2006) nor the daily drilling reports make any mention of
952 H₂S in the entire 80 days of well operations prior to the 27th of May 2006. Hence,
953 H₂S was not frequently observed while drilling, despite the claim by Miller and

954 Mazzini (2017) that H₂S should be common. In particular, Tingay et al. (2015)
955 highlight that no H₂S was ever reported while drilling the Kalibeng clays, despite
956 >60 m³ of crushed up Kalibeng clay drill cuttings being run past the H₂S detectors at
957 the shale shakers. This indicates that no detectable H₂S was present in the Kalibeng
958 clays prior to the Lusi eruption.

959
960 Mazzini et al. (2012), Lupi et al. (2013) and Miller and Mazzini (2017) suggested
961 that the Kalibeng clays were 'primed' for liquefaction by invasion of large volumes
962 of deep hydrothermal fluids prior to the Yogyakarta earthquake. This requirement is
963 fundamental and essential for earthquake triggering, in order to explain the
964 occurrence of H₂S in the initial days of the Lusi eruption (and geochemistry of Lusi
965 muds sampled subsequently that indicate deep hydrothermal input), and in order
966 for the Kalibeng shales to be susceptible for liquefaction (Mazzini et al., 2012).
967 Furthermore, the earthquake-triggering model requires Kalibeng clay liquefaction
968 to commence immediately after the Yogyakarta earthquake, as the liquefaction
969 would be needed to generate the high fluid pressures (via gas exsolution and bubble
970 formation) that the hypothesis claims caused fault reactivation at the Lusi location
971 (Mazzini et al., 2012; Lupi et al., 2013). Hence, the earthquake-triggering model can
972 be directly tested in two ways, namely by looking for any evidence of:

- 973 • a pre-eruption hydrodynamic connection between the Kalibeng clays and
974 deeper hydrothermal fluid reservoirs, and;
- 975 • liquefaction and associated gas exsolution from the Kalibeng clays after the
976 earthquake.

977 As is documented in detail in Tingay et al. (2015), the BJP-1 borehole was perfectly
978 located, and collected appropriate data, to examine both of these tests of the
979 earthquake-trigger hypothesis.

980
981 The first test of the earthquake-triggering hypothesis can be made by looking at
982 specific fluid chemistry distributions in BJP-1, such as the distribution of reported
983 H₂S. If there was significant and widespread pre-eruption invasion of hydrothermal
984 fluids into the Kalibeng clays, then there should be detectable levels of H₂S in the
985 Kalibeng clays. H₂S is first reported just 20 m above the final depth of BJP-1. H₂S was
986 also reported both during the kick in BJP-1 on the 28th of May and was directly
987 measured as being released from the Lusi eruption vent on the 29th of May (these
988 are the only three specific observations of H₂S in the drilling reports). The
989 occurrence of H₂S from Lusi, combined with the absence of H₂S in formations above
990 2813 m depth, strongly indicates that:

- 991 • at least some, if not most, of the initial Lusi eruption fluids were sourced
992 from a depth of at least 2813 m, and;
- 993 • there is no evidence of any significant pre-eruption hydrodynamic
994 connection between the Kalibeng clays and this deep H₂S-bearing reservoir.

995 The lack of any pre-eruption hydrothermal input into the Kalibeng clays is also
996 supported by Raman spectroscopic carbonaceous material thermometry (RSCM)
997 and chlorite geothermometry of erupted clasts from Lusi, which show no evidence

998 of any pre-eruption hydrothermal heating or alteration of the Kalibeng clays
999 (Malvoisin et al., 2016).

1000
1001 The distribution of H₂S observations, combined with other data, highlights that
1002 there is no evidence to support the critical requirement of hydrothermal invasion
1003 into the Kalibeng clays, but also suggests that the Kalibeng clays were previously
1004 isolated from the deep H₂S-bearing reservoir unit. Indeed, the Kalibeng clays are
1005 underlain by an ~1000 m thick sequence of low porosity and low permeability
1006 volcanic and volcanoclastic rocks (Tingay, 2015). Given the lack of prior
1007 hydrodynamic communication, the earthquake triggering model therefore requires
1008 that large volumes of deep overpressured H₂S-bearing fluids suddenly managed to
1009 find a new pathway to the surface, through both ~1000 m of sealing volcanics and a
1010 further ~1300 m of low permeability clays in just the 2 days between the
1011 Yogyakarta earthquake and the Lusi mud eruption. The earthquake-triggering
1012 proponents suggest that it is simply mere coincidence that the BJP-1 borehole
1013 (which forms a direct fluid flow pathway through the sealing volcanics)
1014 encountered deep H₂S-bearing fluids just ~24 hours before a H₂S-bearing fluid kick
1015 and ~2 days before H₂S-bearing fluids erupted at Lusi.

1016
1017 Tingay et al. (2015) also test the requirement of the earthquake-triggering model
1018 for earthquake-induced liquefaction of the Kalibeng clays. Lupi et al. (2013)
1019 highlight that liquefaction is associated with widespread gas exsolution, and claim
1020 that it is the release of large volumes of gas (particularly CO₂) that would generate
1021 the high fluid overpressures sufficient to induce fault reactivation under Lusi.
1022 However, as documented in Tingay et al. (2015), and from the drilling reports in
1023 Sawolo et al. (2009), the drilling mud gas records from BJP-1 show no increase in
1024 gas concentrations (including CO₂) coming from the BJP-1 well in the entire 24-hour
1025 period between the Yogyakarta earthquake and the kick in BJP-1. Indeed, the gas
1026 records from BJP-1 show a slight, but negligible, decrease in all subsurface gas
1027 concentrations (including CO₂) in the 24-hour period following the earthquake
1028 (compared to the preceding days). This lack of any post-earthquake gas release in
1029 BJP-1 confirms that there is no evidence for earthquake-induced liquefaction at the
1030 Lusi location. Furthermore, the daily drilling reports document abundant evidence
1031 for remobilization of the Kalibeng clays (e.g., gas release, clay debris, fluid influxes
1032 and losses) witnessed by the BJP-1 borehole, but these were all only observed
1033 during and subsequent to the kick on the 28th of May 2006.

1034
1035 **Conclusion:** Miller and Mazzini (2017) argue that only “minor amounts” of H₂S
1036 were observed in BJP-1 and that such amounts are simply coincidental, as H₂S
1037 should be extremely common in the geological environment. However, this
1038 argument, and its underlying assumptions, is not supported by drilling records
1039 (Figures 2-6), which show no observations of H₂S in the BJP-1 well in the 80 days of
1040 drilling operations prior to reaching 2830 m on the 27th of May 2006. Furthermore,
1041 distribution of H₂S in BJP-1 shows that there is no evidence of pre-eruption invasion
1042 of hydrothermal fluids into the Kalibeng clays. In addition, the gas records from BJP-
1043 1 show no evidence of any liquefaction of the Kalibeng clays in the 24 hours

1044 following the earthquake. This data represents the only currently known method for
1045 directly testing the arguments and claims made by proponents of the earthquake-
1046 triggering model, and strongly indicates that the critical claims underlying the entire
1047 earthquake triggering hypothesis have no basis. However, the observations of H₂S in
1048 BJP-1 and at the Lusi eruption site, combined with the drilling data from BJP-1, are
1049 fully consistent with the drilling-trigger model for Lusi.

1050

1051

1052 **2. Conceptual model for the initiation and subsequent behavior of Lusi**

1053

1054 Conceptual models, and their mathematical representations, are important because
1055 they can be used to make predictions and to develop testable hypotheses and hence
1056 to guide further studies. Miller and Mazzini (2017) suggest that because Lusi is
1057 deeply rooted, the mathematical models of Davies et al. (2011) and Rudolph et al.
1058 (2011) are “irrelevant”. We disagree for two reasons. First, surface deformation
1059 confirms that the much of the erupted materials come from the shallow (1.4-1.8 km
1060 deep) Kalibeng formation (Shirzaei et al., 2015), though erupted materials are
1061 indeed muddied by a deeper source of fluids (see claim 11). Second, these two
1062 models, as do all models in which material erupts from a source of finite dimensions,
1063 have similar mathematical behaviors, with both discharge and deformation
1064 decreasing approximately exponentially with time for long times, consistent with
1065 data through 2011 (Rudolph et al., 2013). In fact, Rudolph et al. (2013) use this data
1066 (and model) to make the testable forecast “that discharge at Lusi will decrease by an
1067 order of magnitude to $< 10^3 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ by $2017 \pm 1 \text{ year}$ ”. In this light, both the
1068 geysering behavior (e.g., Vanderkluyzen et al., 2014), and the new discharge values
1069 reported by Miller and Mazzini (2017) that greatly exceed those in 2011 can be
1070 interpreted as evidence for some combination of changes in behavior in recent years
1071 and/or missing features from the models of Davies et al. (2011) and Rudolph et al.
1072 (2011) – confirming the value of models to interpret observations. Given the
1073 importance of discharge for testing models and anticipating the future of Lusi, we
1074 look forwards to documentation of how and when the new discharge measurements
1075 were obtained and the uncertainty in the measurements.

1076

1077 **3. Response of hydrothermal systems to distant earthquakes**

1078

1079 It has long been established that earthquakes induce a variety of hydrological and
1080 volcanic responses (e.g., Pliny, 1st century AD). A comparison of the Lusi eruption -
1081 Yogyakarta earthquake pair with other examples of triggered phenomena provides a
1082 basis for assessing whether this particular possible example is expected or unusual.
1083 Key is defining what types of triggered phenomena are appropriate for comparison.
1084 Miller and Mazzini (2017) conclude that it is “necessary to include Lusi with other
1085 triggered volcanic/hydrothermal systems”.

1086

1087 Since Lusi was a new eruption, we contend instead that a comparison with new
1088 eruptions is appropriate – already erupting systems as noted by Miller and Mazzini
1089 (2017) and documented quantitatively by others (e.g., Manga et al., 2009; Avouris et

1090 al., 2017) are more sensitive to earthquakes. [Figure 9](#) is a compilation of mud
1091 eruptions triggered within days of earthquakes, and details and references are
1092 provided in [Table 1](#). We include only cases for which we could verify that the
1093 reference directly tied the eruption and earthquake. We also do not include
1094 examples where local seismicity and eruptions may both be triggered by a common
1095 underlying process (e.g., Pitt and Hutchinson, 1982). For comparison, we also plot
1096 lines of constant seismic energy density, a measure of ground motion. If this is a
1097 reasonable proxy for the propensity for triggering (Wang and Manga, 2010), the
1098 energy density at Lusi from the Yogyakarta earthquake was 0.0043 J/m^3 , smaller
1099 than the smallest value of 0.019 J/m^3 for any of the other events shown in [Figure 9](#).

1100
1101 To highlight how much more sensitive other Earth systems are to earthquakes, we
1102 include a compilation of observations of responses in wells, magmatic volcanoes,
1103 triggered earthquakes, geysers, and streams based on the data compilation in Wang
1104 and Manga (2010). It is these types of events that Miller and Mazzini (2017) use to
1105 argue that Lusi was not unusual. We contend that initiating a new eruption of
1106 aqueous fluids and solids is different from triggering seismicity or changing the
1107 behavior of a geyser. Once Lusi began erupting we agree with Miller and Mazzini
1108 (2017) that a comparison with other already-active systems, including geysers, may
1109 be appropriate.

1110
1111 We emphasize that [Figure 9](#) only captures two aspects of the earthquake: its
1112 magnitude and distance. It neglects directivity effects, which can enhance ground
1113 motion and may be important for volcano triggering (Delle Donne et al., 2010); the
1114 2013 Gwadar triggered eruption may be an example of a mud eruption enabled by
1115 directivity (e.g., Bonini et al., 2016). Lusi, however, was not at an azimuth where
1116 directivity would amplify ground motion (Walter et al., 2008; Tingay et al., 2008).
1117 The type of compilation in [Figure 9](#) and the model for seismic energy density also do
1118 not account for regional variations in attenuation, though Davies et al. (2008) did
1119 develop an attenuation model for east Java and did not find evidence for weak
1120 attenuation. Last, the frequency content of deformation may matter, with
1121 suggestions based on observations that long period waves may be more effective
1122 than short period waves of the same amplitude (e.g., Beresnev, 2006; Manga et al.
1123 2009; Rudolph and Manga, 2012) – if so, the energy density needed to trigger
1124 eruptions would decrease with increasing earthquake magnitude, making Lusi even
1125 less likely to have been triggered (assuming [Figure 9](#) is relevant). Nevertheless, that
1126 Lusi may have been more sensitive to earthquakes than other documented
1127 examples of new eruptions is *not* a definitive argument against an earthquake
1128 trigger – there must always be a most-sensitive example in any collection of
1129 observations.

1130
1131 A stronger argument against an earthquake trigger, made in some of the earliest
1132 papers published shortly after the eruption, is that other earthquakes produced
1133 greater ground motions without triggering an eruption (Manga, 2007; Davies et al.,
1134 2008). [Table 2](#) lists 9 earthquakes that had greater seismic energy density at Lusi
1135 than the Yogyakarta earthquake. Energy density is only one measure of ground

1136 motion, but one whose magnitude may be best correlated with responses to
1137 earthquakes (Wang and Manga, 2010). Other measures of ground motion, including
1138 peak ground velocity and peak acceleration, calculated using the attenuation
1139 relationships for East Java developed in Davies et al. (2008), are also listed in [Table](#)
1140 [2](#); if these measures are adopted, then more, possibly many more, events had
1141 stronger ground motion (Davies et al., 2008). Data in this table were retrieved on
1142 July 10, 2017 from the USGS earthquake catalog.

1143
1144 We agree with Mazzini and Miller (2017) that the Yogyakarta event remains unique
1145 among the events in [Table 2](#) as a strike-slip event. However, we disagree with the
1146 claim by Miller and Mazzini (2017) that only earthquakes with high frequency
1147 ground motions affect Lusi because Lusi is not sensitive to surface waves. This claim
1148 is based on numerical simulations of wave propagation at Lusi that erroneously
1149 included a non-existent very high velocity layer ($V_p > 6000$ m/s, which represented
1150 the velocities of the steel wellbore casing) above the mud source (Lupi et al. 2013).
1151 The revised V_s structure used in the corrigendum to Lupi et al. (2013) (Lupi et al.,
1152 2014) also contains a higher-impedance layer above the Kalibeng clays, which
1153 focuses seismic energy into the underlying region. This impedance contrast was
1154 attributed to changes in fluid overpressure. A revised velocity structure constrained
1155 by borehole geophysical logs, check-shot data, geological observations and pore
1156 pressure measurements at BJP-1 and offset wells (Tingay, 2015) shows no evidence
1157 for the impedance contrast used in Lupi et al. (2014) and disfavors significant
1158 variations in effective stress (overburden minus pore pressure) in this depth
1159 interval. Models of wave propagation carried out with a revised velocity structure
1160 show no such extreme focusing of vertically-incident energy (Rudolph et al., 2015).
1161 Hence, the sensitivity of Lusi to other types of seismic waves remains unresolved.

1162
1163 The other magnitude 6 events in [Table 2](#) should have had similar frequency
1164 contents but larger amplitudes relative to the Yogyakarta event. We note that long
1165 period waves may favor triggering of earthquakes in geothermal settings (e.g.,
1166 Brodsky and Prejean, 2005), non-volcanic tremor (Guilhem et al., 2010), and
1167 initiating liquefaction (e.g., Holzer and Youd, 2007). Indeed, the study by West et al.
1168 (2005) showed that (long period) Rayleigh waves trigger earthquakes when they
1169 maximize local failure stresses. Nevertheless, a review of frequency dependence did
1170 conclude that data supporting this conclusion remain sparse (Manga et al., 2012).

1171
1172 We agree that accurate measures of ground motion will benefit from improved
1173 seismic velocity models and simulations of 3D wave propagation through more
1174 realistic structures. This includes both P and S velocity models. Better predictions
1175 and measurements of ground motion will make comparisons with other settings
1176 more meaningful and also provide insights that will be valuable elsewhere.

1177 1178 **4. Summary**

1179
1180 Daily drilling reports document that a kick occurred while drilling, that the kick was
1181 not controlled, and that wellbore integrity was lost, all leading to a subsurface

1182 blowout. Pressure data document fracture propagation and also appear to have
1183 directly witnessed the birth of the first Lusi eruption at the surface on the 29th of
1184 May 2006. Gas data confirm that fluids from a deep (>2800m) source erupted
1185 during the initiation of Lusi, and show no evidence for either pre-eruption
1186 hydrothermal invasion of the Kalibeng clays, nor of any earthquake-induced
1187 liquefaction. Daily drilling reports (Figures 2-6) clearly state that Lusi eruption
1188 behavior was modified during attempts to kill the mudflow on three occasions,
1189 confirming the direct connection between BJP-1 and Lusi that is also witnessed in
1190 the drill-pipe pressure data. All of these official observations and reports contradict
1191 the key claims and arguments made against the drilling trigger by Miller and
1192 Mazzini (2017) and, as such, the claims made by Miler and Mazzini (2017) are
1193 demonstrably false.

1194
1195 Analogous events are relevant for understanding how drilling and earthquakes
1196 trigger eruptions. Drilling has initiated similar eruptions elsewhere. We contend
1197 that the most appropriate comparisons for earthquake-triggering are new eruptions,
1198 or quiescent mud volcanoes, triggered by earthquakes. A compilation of > 40
1199 documented examples of triggered mud eruptions shows that Lusi would need to be
1200 the most sensitive system yet documented if it erupted in response to the
1201 Yogyakarta earthquake. Moreover, other earthquakes caused greater shaking at Lusi
1202 and did not initiate an eruption, which is in full agreement with the drilling records
1203 that indicate no earthquake-induced liquefaction, nor any reliable or reported
1204 hydrodynamic response to seismicity, at the Lusi location

1205
1206 Lusi remains a great testbed for models and ideas about what initiates eruptions
1207 and how large, deeply sourced eruptions evolve. Drilling reports and data collected
1208 prior to, during, and after the eruption provide key insights into the sequence of
1209 events and allow hypotheses to be tested. We maintain that these primary reports
1210 and data support a trigger by drilling and provide direct evidence against the
1211 earthquake-triggering hypothesis.

1212
1213 **Acknowledgements.** MM and MR are supported by the US National Science
1214 Foundation. A python script to access the USGS earthquake catalog and generate
1215 Figure 9 is available at https://github.com/maxrudolph/mv_triggering. The authors
1216 are not aware of any financial and scientific conflicts of interest and provided no
1217 input in the form of reviews to any of the papers in the special issue about Lusi.

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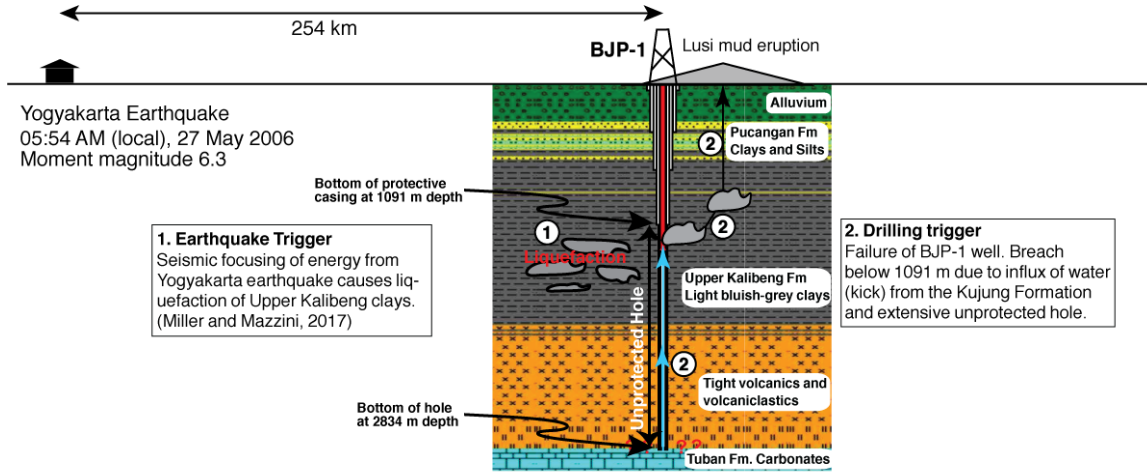
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Figure 1: Schematic illustration of the two models for the initiation of the 2006 Lusi eruption.

Energy Mega Persada Tbk
Daily Drilling Report page 1

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| SUMMARY | | Well Name | Well Status | Well No. | Rig Name | Rig No. | RPT No. | RPT Date |
| Lapindo Barata Inc. (Barata Plant) | | BJP-1 | | 17MM-1-004 | 80 | 79-05 | 5/27/2006 | 5/27/2006 |
| Drilling 12 1/4" Hole | | Well Date | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) |
| 04-21-06 RI-1 | | 6,265,244.00 | 8,980 | 2,682.86 | 2,682.86 | 816.93 | 257.2 | 79.36 |
| Well Casing String (ft) | | Well Casing (m) | Well Casing (ft) | Well Casing (m) | Well Casing (ft) | Well Casing (m) | Well Casing (ft) | Well Casing (m) |
| Intermediate, 3.50098 | | 18.40 | | | | | | 11,883,336.10 |

HSR, NEXT OPERATION AND OTHERS

Days Since Last Trip (Days) 72
 Amount of Days Since Last Trip Incident 42
 Plan For Next 24 Hours
 Drilling ahead to casing point @ 9400 ft.
 Requirements Next 24 Hours
 Closed, delivered and received at location to day.
 Main Production Valve
 none
 Remarks
 Formation still as above, consist of 100 % sand stone, trace fragment limestone.

DETAIL OF OPERATIONS

| Time | Code | Activity | PNP/PT | Description |
|--|-------|----------|----------|-------------|
| 05:00 | 05:00 | 24.00 | Drilling | PT |
| Drilling ahead from 8980 ft to 9090 ft, performed SH @ 9010, result gas reading similar Resume drilling from 9090 ft to 9230 ft, H2S probe sensor located at shale shaker area detected 25 ppm concentrated H2S. Drilling crew at rig floor continued performing job. By follow the SOP, the next drilling crew proceeded to breathing point. Continued drilling to 9277 ft at reporting time | | | | |

Well Control Person
 Drilling Supervisor 02152906338-cv2105 willenhar@yahoo.com

Date of report – 5.26.2006 (5 am) to 5.27.2006 (5 am)

Evidence Drilling from 9090 ft to 9230 ft. 25 ppm H₂S detected 9030 ft and rig partially evacuated. Continued drilling at reached 9277 ft at 5am.

Interpretation
 H₂S reported well before ~6am Yogyakarta earthquake (~3am based on rate of penetration records). H₂S in any detectable concentration is a safety hazard that is recorded in drilling reports. This is the first mention of H₂S in all BJP-1 reports.

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Figure 2: Daily drilling report on the 27th May 2006, which spans the period from 05:00 on the 26th of May to 0:500 on the 27th of May 2006 (previously published in Sawolo et al., 2009), with annotations showing key evidence and interpretations.

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Energy Mega Persada, Tbk
Daily Drilling Report page 1

SUMMARY

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| Well Name | Well No. | Original Hole | Log No. | DP# (Depth) | DP# (Depth) |
| Laurens Brantas Inc. (Banjar Panj) | BU794 | | TWAL-404 | 81 | 80-86 |
| Wellbore | Well No. | Original Hole | Log No. | DP# (Depth) | DP# (Depth) |
| 08-21-06 R-1 | 6,295,244.00 | 115,804.34 | 9,277 | 9,297 | 10,300 |
| Wellbore | Well No. | Original Hole | Log No. | DP# (Depth) | DP# (Depth) |
| 08-21-06 R-1 | 6,295,244.00 | 115,804.34 | 9,277 | 9,297 | 10,300 |

HSE, NEXT OPERATION AND OTHERS

Stop Since Last Trip (hours) 74
Review of Data Since Last Time Incident 42

Set cement plug prior r/h casing
Requirements Next 48 hours

Remarks
Possible reached top of Sijung formation @ 9290 ft.

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS

| From | To | Day (hrs) | Code | Activity | PT/ST | Remarks |
|-------|-------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-------|---|
| 05:00 | 07:00 | 2.00 | Drilling | | PT | Drilling formation from 9277 ft to 9283 ft. |
| 07:00 | 08:30 | 1.50 | Cond Mud & Circ | | PT | Calculated hole clean |
| 08:30 | 11:00 | 2.50 | Trips-In | | PT | Mtu additional four (4) stands of 9" dp stands to derrick. |
| 11:00 | 13:00 | 2.00 | Drilling | | PT | Resume drilling from 9283 ft to 9297 ft, lost occurred. |
| 13:00 | 17:00 | 4.00 | Well Control | | PT | Spilled total 60 bbls LCM, Pouch 4 stands, 8737 ft, monitored well through dip tank. Well acidic while mud engineer prepared to mix LTOBM @ 8 ppg, on mud plan. |
| 17:00 | 00:00 | 7.00 | Well Control | | PT | Transfer total 600 bbls, 8 ppg LTOBM to mud tank, proceed mixed and raised mud weight to 14.7 ppg completed. |
| 00:00 | 05:00 | 5.00 | Trips-Out | | PT | Worked pipe - pouch from 8700 ft to 8100 ft without circulation, overpulled encountered over 100 bbls 20,000 lbs. Circulated @ 8100 ft, 850% returned to flow line, max pump pressure allowable at surface @ 3100 psi. Resume pouch to 8500 ft, while filled up hole through dip string, total volume displacement was hard to counter. Continued pouch to 4500 ft. |

Drilling Supervisor: Willem Hunkla
Phone: 02132006536 ext 2105
Email: willemh@yaboo.com

Date of report – 5.27.2006 (5 am) to 5.28.2006 (5 am)

Evidence Onsite geologists believed the deep carbonates had been penetrated by bottom 3 ft of the well.

Evidence Drilling normally from 5am-7am.
Interpretation. No mention of any issues, such as losses, related to ~6am Yogyakarta earthquake.

Evidence Losses at final depth of 9297 ft at ~12:50pm. Pumped slug of heavy lost circulation material while pulling back to 8737 ft. Made up 600 bbls of new mud and transferred to mud tanks.
Interpretation. No mention of any losses synchronous with Yogyakarta after-shocks. New mud volume suggests losses much larger than reported Sawolo et al. (2009). Bit should have stayed near loss zone at TD. Pulling bit up 560 ft from bottom, after pumping LCM, makes it difficult to monitor losses.

Evidence "POOH" – means they were pulling the drill bit out of hole between midnight and 5 am on 28th May 2006. "overpull encountered" means the hole was tight and extra effort needed to withdraw drill string. "50% returned to flow line" means only half of fluids pumped into hole were returning. Surface stand-pipe pressure was limited to 300 psi to minimise the ongoing losses. While pulling out of hole, they topped up the mud in the well by filling the hole through the drill string. They struggled to do this: "total volume displacement was hard to counter".

Interpretation. Only partial returns, limiting of well pressure and difficulty keeping hole full confirms definitively that losses were not killed and were still ongoing while pulling out of the hole. If the mud volume is not replaced accurately (i.e. not enough mud in the hole) this could induce an influx because the column of mud exerts a lower pressure within the borehole. This can be exacerbated as the overpull may indicate swabbing of formation fluids into the well. POOH without confidently replacing the volume of mud is the likely cause of the subsequent influx (kick)

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Figure 3: Daily drilling report on the 28th May 2006, which spans the period from 05:00 on the 27th of May to 0:500 on the 28th of May 2006 (previously published in Sawolo et al., 2009), with annotations showing key evidence and interpretations.

Energy Mega Persada, Tbk Date of report – 5.28.2006 (5 am) to 5.29.2006 (5 am)
Daily Drilling Report page 1

| SUMMARY | | Well Name | Well No. | Well Type | Well Status | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Completion | Well Completion Date |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Business Unit | Field Name | Well Name | Well No. | Well Type | Well Status | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Completion | Well Completion Date |
| Legende Operasional | Designer | Well Name | Well No. | Well Type | Well Status | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Completion | Well Completion Date |
| Pressure Operator | Pressure Indicator | Well Name | Well No. | Well Type | Well Status | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Completion | Well Completion Date |
| Well Name | Well No. | Well Type | Well Status | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Completion | Well Completion Date | | |
| 04-21-06 R-1 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 | 02,205,244.02 |
| Last Casing String (ft) | LOT (Depth) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) | Next Casing (ft) |
| Infrastruktur, 3,000/ft | 19.40 | | | | | | | | |

| HSE, NEXT OPERATION AND OTHERS | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Days Since Last Time Incident (days) | 75 |
| Days Since Last Time Incident (hours) | 42 |
| Plan For Next 24 Hours | |
| Flaring job | |
| Preparation time (48 Hours) | |

| DETAIL OF OPERATIONS | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Time | Pressure (psi) | Flow Rate (gpm) | Activity | Remarks |
| 05:00 | 1800 | 3.50 | Trip-Out | Confirmed POOH to 4321 ft, circulated, indication of well kick, well kick, shut in well. High concentrated H2S gas detected, surrounding shaker, up to 500 ppm, evacuated to safe area (Muster point). |
| 08:00 | 1200 | 4.00 | Kill Well | The recorded data, SIDP=350 psi, SICP=450 psi. Preparation to kill well by utilized volumetric method, bled 19 bbls, pressure up CP to 450 psi, MW 14.7 ppg, burred gas out through gas flares. Applied method twice, well died. Contaminated fluid and mud mixed with trace water caused mud weight reduced to 8.5 ppg. Observed well through trip tank, total lost since 05:00 hrs around 300 bbls. |
| 12:00 | 2000 | 8.00 | Others-PT | Worked pipe attempted get free by pulled up to 400,000 lbs, while applied 10,000 lb torque into string and pumped up to 500 gpm, however unsuccessful, zero indicated malfunction. |
| 20:00 | 2200 | 2.00 | Shut In Well | Safety precaution shut in well, Mixed 50 bbls, 14.7 ppg, 85 / 5 OWR heavy pill, ... |
| 22:00 | 02:00 | 4.00 | Others-PT | Pumped in spotted a total 40 bbls heavy on stuck area, soaked same. |
| 02:00 | 03:30 | 1.80 | Log-Cased Hole | ICU Baker Atlas, installed top wireline and preparing Free Point Tools. |
| 03:30 | 04:30 | 1.00 | Others-NPT | While Baker rigging up tools, at 3.5 ppm H2S concentrated above at surface, evacuated personnel to safe area. |
| 04:30 | 05:00 | 0.50 | Log-Cased Hole | Baker cancelled running free point tools. Bubble gas contained 5 ppm, H2S arose 40 ft outside flare. Evacuated crew to muster point at reporting time. |

Evidence pulling the drill bit out of hole between 5 and 8 am on the 29th May 2006, when there was an indication of a kick and then a clear well kick. Well was shut in by closing blow-out preventer at the surface. H₂S gas was detected. The rig was evacuated.

Interpretation. Fluid and gas has entered the well bore while pulling out of hole. This is the swabbing and influx referred to by Davies et al. (2010). Detailed analysis of reports show a ~90 minute period between influx being identified and the well being shut-in (Tingay, 2015).

Evidence For 4 hours it is reported that that was shut in drill pipe pressure (SIDP) = 350 psi and shut in case pressure (SICP) = 450 psi. The drilling mud is diluted by formation fluid and is now 8.9 ppg.

Interpretation. Miller and Mazzini (2017) claim there is no pressure to drive fracture propagation. This is not correct. To calculate the pressure one takes these surface pressures and extrapolates down to the depth of the last casing point (1091 m) (Davies et al., 2008)

It is this a period of sustained pressure when the subsurface blowout would have started (see Davies et al 2008; 2010). The kick was controlled, but in shutting-in the well the subsurface pressure was too high and a subsurface blowout occurred.

The SIDP and SICP pressures are different. This confirms the drill string is sealed by surrounding rock (probably swelling clays). There are now two systems established, above and below the sealed section. The subsurface blowout is occurring below the sealed section and the passive section above this is where the well seems to be killed and passive.

Note: Davies et al., (2010, their figure 2) shows that drill pipe and casing pressure were different and there is evidence for a steadily declining drill pipe pressure, probably indicating that the borehole below the seal is fracturing.

Evidence H₂S reported at detectors on the wellsite. Source of H₂S tracked down to location 40 ft outside of the flare (~100m from well). This is the first recorded observation of the Lusi mud volcano.

Interpretation. Lusi mud volcano first erupted at between 3:30-4:30am on the 29th of May 2006 approximately 100m from the BJP-1 wellbore. This was also witnessed in downhole pressure data from the BJP-1, demonstrating direct connection between BJP-1 and the Lusi eruption site.

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Figure 4: Daily drilling report on the 29th May 2006, which spans the period from 05:00 on the 27th of May to 0:500 on the 28th of May 2006 (previously published in Sawolo et al., 2009), with annotations showing key evidence and interpretations.

Energy Mega Persada, Tbk
Daily Drilling Report page 1

| SUMMARY | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Operator Well | Well Name | Well No. | Job No. | Original Hole | Rig Name | Well No. | DPS (ppg) | Well Log No. | Well Log Date |
| Lapindo Brantas Inc. | BJP#1 | | | ITMM - #04 | | 83 | 87.85 | | 5/30/2006 |
| Plant/Operator | Well Site | Well Date | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) |
| Mixing cement | 3/9/2006 | 6,287 | 9,287 | 0.0 | 10,300 | | | | |
| Well Name | Well No. | Well Date | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) |
| 04-21-06 R-1 | 0,285,244.00 | | 17,376.21 | | 12,045,006.35 | | | | |
| Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) |
| Intermediate, 1,500 (KG) | LOT (kg) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) | Well Geology (BRI) |
| HSE, NEXT OPERATION AND OTHERS | | | | | | | | | |
| HSE Next Operation and Others | | | | | | | | | |
| Remarks of HSE Next Operation and Others | | | | | | | | | |
| Sequence comment | | | | | | | | | |
| Requirements Next 48 hours | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Production Time | | | | | | | | | |
| Remarks | | | | | | | | | |
| DETAIL OF OPERATIONS | | | | | | | | | |
| Time | Start | End | Job | Activity | Pressure | Description | | | |
| 05:00 | 14:00 | 9:00 | Others-NPT | NPT | | Prepared and mixed 18.0 ppg mud with LCM (Concocted of frac seal, CaCO ₃ and kwik seal fine.) | | | |
| 14:00 | 14:00 | 9:00 | Others-NPT | NPT | | Gas and water bubbles blow intermittently with maximum height of 25 ft, and escape time 5 minutes between bubbles. Pumped cement slurry with a total of 130 bbls 14.7 ppg mud, followed by 100 bbls 14.7 ppg. Bubbles intensity reduced and escape time between each bubble is longer. Observed maximum bubble of 8 ft height occasionally, normally one (1) foot height, with 30 minutes escape time between each bubble. | | | |
| 14:00 | 16:00 | 6:00 | Others-NPT | NPT | | Prepared and mixed 18.0 ppg mud with LCM (Concocted of frac seal, CaCO ₃ and kwik seal fine.) | | | |
| 19:00 | 22:30 | 3:50 | Mix Mud | PT | | Mixed 100 bbls 18.0 ppg mud for displacement. | | | |
| 22:30 | 23:30 | 1:00 | Mix Mud | PT | | Pumped a total of 200 bbls 16 ppg mud with LCM at 40ppm, initial pressure 1200 psi and final pressure 900 psi. No more high intensity bubbles arise after spooling LCM. However approximately a half foot bubbles occasionally came up to surface. | | | |
| 23:30 | 04:00 | 4:50 | Mix Mud | PT | | Mixed additional 150 bbls of 18.0 ppg mud, for displacement after cementing. | | | |
| 04:00 | 05:00 | 1:00 | Injection/Injectivity | PT | | Well Halliburton unit, tested lines to 2000 psi, obtained injection rate 2.5 bbls / 370 psi, pumped 20 bbls mud. Proceeded mixing cement slurry with 15.8 ppg. | | | |
| Well Name | Well No. | Well Date | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | Well Depth (ft) | Well Depth (m) | | | |
| Willow Huma | | | 02152908336-est2405 | | willowmar@yahoo.com | | | | |

Date of report – 5.29.2006 (5 am) to 5.30.2006 (5 am)

Evidence Gas and water bubbles is the start of the eruption c. 100 m from the rig site (Fig 7). Pumped 130 and then 100 barrels of 14.7 ppg mud were pumped down the hole, resulting in an increase in the time between eruption bursts at Lusi.
Interpretation. The drillers indicate that there is a direct connection between the borehole and Lusi eruption due to downhole pumping being observed to cause a reduction in Lusi eruptive activity.

Evidence frac seal, CaCO₃ and kwik seal fine are mud additives that slow or prevent breakdown of the well

Interpretation. The rig crew believe that Lusi is linked to BJP-1 and are attempting to use LCM to plug any wellbore fractures and kill the eruption.

Evidence Pumping high density mud and loss control material (LCM). LCM resulted in a observed reduction of Lusi eruptive activity.

Interpretation. Again a change in eruption behaviour identified, showing a connection between the borehole and the eruption.

Evidence Mixing up more mud, as well as cement. Mud will be used to 'displace' (push) a cement slug into the wellbore below the bit.

Interpretation. Prior two pumping efforts proved connection between BJP-1 and Lusi, but failed to kill blowout. Drillers now preparing to block off well or downhole fractures using a cement plug.

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Figure 5: Daily drilling report on the 30th May 2006, which spans the period from 05:00 on the 29th of May to 0:500 on the 30th of May 2006 (previously published in Sawolo et al., 2009), with annotations showing key evidence and interpretations.

Energy Mega Persada, Tbk
Daily Drilling Report page 1

| SUMMARY | | Well Name | Well No. | Well Status | Rig Number | Well No. | DPS (bar) | Well Test Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------------|------|----|---------|------|----------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------|-------|------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|------|------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|------|---------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|------|---------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|------|------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|-------|-------|------|--------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Well Name: Lapindo Brantas Inc. (Banjar Parigi) Well No.: BJPB1 Well Status: Original Hole Rig Number: TMJA - #04 Well No.: 84 DPS (bar): 83.85 Well Test Date: 5/31/2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plan Operation: Preparing a free point indicator. Well Number: 04-21-08 R-1 Year AFE Amount: 6,295,244.00 Daily Cost Type: 10,128.00 Core Cost Type: 12,055,134.35 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Well Casing String (RQ): Intermediate, 3.250INx8 LOT (RQ): Well Casing OD (RQ): Well Casing ID (RQ): | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USE, NEXT OPERATION AND OTHERS Days Since Last Time Incident (days): 77 Days of Days Since Last Time Incident: HZ Plan for Next 24 hours: Goals of drilling job: Equipment's Used (8 hours): Next Production Time: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remarks Will build up another 1000 bbls mud. Total five sources blow up for the time being with half foot high continued blow. First recorded observation of additional mud eruption sites, further away than the first site next to drill rig. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DETAIL OF OPERATIONS <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Plan</th> <th>To</th> <th>Dr (hr)</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Activity</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>6</th> <th>7</th> <th>8</th> <th>9</th> <th>10</th> <th>11</th> <th>12</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>05:00</td> <td>10:00</td> <td>5.00</td> <td>Cement-Primary</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00</td> <td>18:00</td> <td>8.00</td> <td>Cement-WOC</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>18:00</td> <td>22:30</td> <td>4.50</td> <td>Mix Mud</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>22:30</td> <td>23:30</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>Cement-Primary</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23:30</td> <td>03:30</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Mix Mud</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>03:30</td> <td>04:30</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>Mix Cement</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>04:30</td> <td>05:00</td> <td>0.50</td> <td>Cement-RUNRD</td> <td>PT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | | | | | Plan | To | Dr (hr) | Code | Activity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 05:00 | 10:00 | 5.00 | Cement-Primary | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10:00 | 18:00 | 8.00 | Cement-WOC | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18:00 | 22:30 | 4.50 | Mix Mud | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | 22:30 | 23:30 | 1.00 | Cement-Primary | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | 23:30 | 03:30 | 4.00 | Mix Mud | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | 03:30 | 04:30 | 1.00 | Mix Cement | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | 04:30 | 05:00 | 0.50 | Cement-RUNRD | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plan | To | Dr (hr) | Code | Activity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 | 10:00 | 5.00 | Cement-Primary | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | 18:00 | 8.00 | Cement-WOC | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18:00 | 22:30 | 4.50 | Mix Mud | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:30 | 23:30 | 1.00 | Cement-Primary | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:30 | 03:30 | 4.00 | Mix Mud | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:30 | 04:30 | 1.00 | Mix Cement | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:30 | 05:00 | 0.50 | Cement-RUNRD | PT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Job Control: Well Control: Drilling Supervisor: 0010290636-222195 wilsonh@bphob.com | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Date of report – 5.30.2006 (5 am) to 5.31.2006 (5 am)

Evidence Pumping 50 barrel cement plug and then high density mud to push cement plug into wellbore. Wait on cement (WOC) while observing that Lusi eruptive activity reduced following the third kill attempt.

Interpretation. Drillers made third attempt to stop Lusi eruption, this time using combination of high density mud and a 50 barrel cement plug, to try and set a cement plug to block wellbore, or seal wellbore fractures with cement. After pumping, the rig crew again observing a decrease in eruption activity.

Evidence prepare mud and cement and then perform another attempt to kill blowout by plugging wellbore or wellbore fractures. Lusi eruption observed.

Interpretation. Drillers made fourth attempt to stop Lusi eruption by pumping cement and dense mud into the wellbore. Lusi eruption activity was monitored, but no mention made on whether or not fourth attempt changed Lusi eruption activity.

Evidence Undertook injection test – 8 barrels pumped at 1 barrel per minute. Reached pressure at surface of 1000 psi.

Interpretation. Injection test is made to test whether cement plugs had sealed off wellbore. High pressures during test indicate that the wellbore is now sealed by a cement plug at some depth below the drill bit, and that wellbore is intact above the cement plug. However, blowout is still freely occurring below cement plug.

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Figure 6: Daily drilling report on the 31th May 2006, which spans the period from 05:00 on the 30th of May to 0:500 on the 31st of May 2006 (previously published in Sawolo et al., 2009), with annotations showing key evidence and interpretations.



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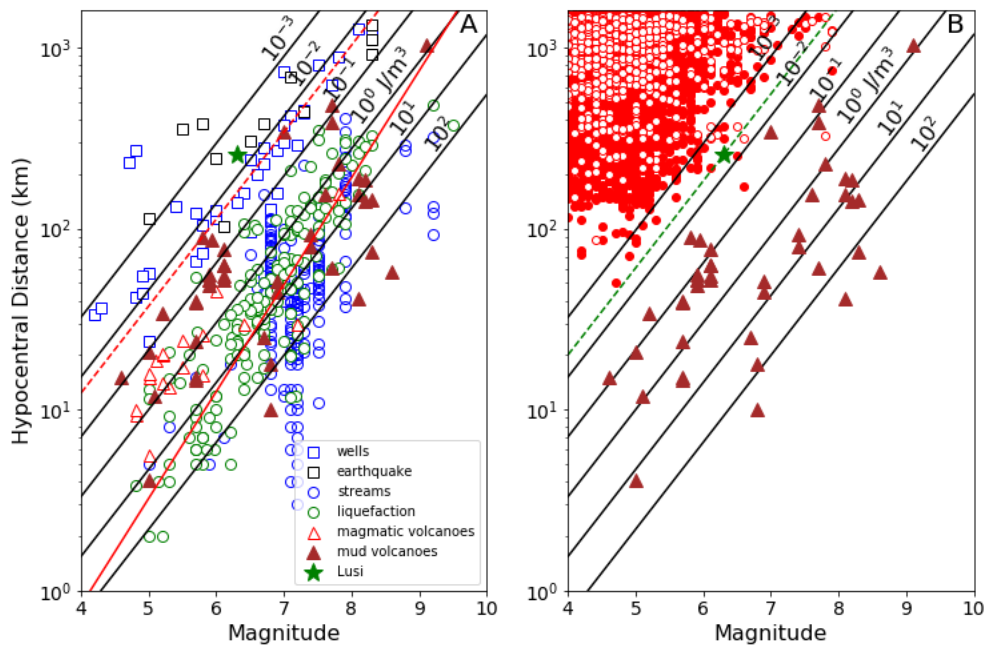
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Figure 7: Photo of the TMMJ drill rig and BJP-1 location and the first documented Lusi eruption site approximately 100 m from the well (“40ft SW of flare pit”). Exact time of the photograph is not documented, but is within the first 3 days of the Lusi eruption, as the drill pipe is clearly still visible in the racks on the rig tower, and daily drilling reports note that this was removed before sunrise on the 2nd of June. Photo from Guslan Gumilang/Jawa Pos, with permission.



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Figure 8: The 1997 Dieng-24 blowout in the Dieng geothermal field in Central Java. The eruption of mud and steam occurs at a location away from the well location (photos taken from close to the well-site location), and shows several similarities with the Lusi eruption. This is one of many analogous examples of mud eruptions triggered by drilling blowouts, including several instances from Indonesia, and demonstrates that there is extensive precedence for the drilling-trigger model for Lusi. Photo from Elliot Yearsley, with permission.



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 1438 **Figure 9:** (A) Response of various subsurface hydrological or magmatic systems to
 1439 earthquakes. The category of mud volcanoes only includes new eruptions rather than
 1440 modulation of already-ongoing eruptions (such as the events reported in Rudolph and
 1441 Manga 2012); the magmatic volcanoes only includes large eruptions in catalogs, not
 1442 remote-sensing based changes in already-active systems. Sources for mud eruptions are
 1443 listed in Table 1 and sources for other data are from Manga and Wang (2015). Sloping
 1444 lines are lines of constant seismic energy density; the dotted line has an energy density of
 1445 0.0185 J/m^3 ; the red line shows one fault length. We do not include two events mentioned
 1446 in Miller and Mazzini (2017) because we could not verify their occurrence; the eruption
 1447 of the Napag mud volcano in Iran was attributed to heavy rain in the news article, and for
 1448 the eruption in Taiwan is was unclear whether it was a response to an earthquake and to
 1449 which earthquake it might have responded. (B) Historic seismicity within 1500 km of
 1450 Lusi (red), including shallow ($<30 \text{ km}$, open circles) and deeper events (filled circles).
 1451 Time period is 1 January 1976 to 28 May 2006. Since we were unable to reproduce some
 1452 of the points shown in Figure 8 of Miller and Mazzini (2017) we include plotted mud
 1453 eruption data in Table 1 and a script for generating this figure at
 1454 https://github.com/maxrudolph/mv_triggering

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Table 1: Mud volcano eruptions triggered within days of earthquakes (data plotted in Figure 1).

| Date | Mud volcano | Magnitude | Distance (km) | Reference |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| 4-Mar-1977 | Beciu, Romania | 7.4 | 92 | Mellors et al. (2007) |
| 26-Dec-2004 | Baratang, Andaman Islands | 9.1 | 1030 | Manga and Brodsky (2006), distance updated in Bonini et al. (2016) |
| 10-Dec-2003 | Luoshang, Taiwan | 6.8 | 10 | Bonini et al. (2016) |
| 10-Dec-0203 | Leikunghuo, Taiwan | 6.8 | 18 | Bonini et al. (2016) |
| 24-Sept-2013 | Makran Coast, Pakistan | 7.7 | 383 | Bonini et al. (2016) |
| 20-May-2012 | Torre, Italy | 6.1 | 77 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 20-May-2012 | Regnano, Italy | 6.1 | 63 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 29-May-2012 | Regnano, Italy | 5.9 | 52 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 20-May-2012 | Casola-Querzola, Italy | 6.1 | 63 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 29-May-2012 | Casola-Querzola, Italy | 5.9 | 52 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 20-May-2012 | Nirano, Italy | 6.1 | 52 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 20-May-2012 | Puianello, Italy | 6.1 | 55 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 29-May-2012 | Ospitaletto, Italy | 5.9 | 49 | Manga and Bonini. (2012) |
| 4-Mar-1954 | Niikappu | 8.6 | 58 | Chigira and Tanaka (1997) |
| 16-May-1968 | Niikappu | 8.2 | 186 | Chigira and Tanaka (1997) |
| 21-Mar-1982 | Niikappu | 6.7 | 25 | Chigira and Tanaka (1997) |
| 15-Jan-1993 | Niikappu | 7.6 | 153 | Chigira and Tanaka (1997) |
| 28-Dec-1994 | Niikappu | 7.8 | 226 | Chigira and Tanaka (1997) |
| 25-Sept-2003 | Niikappu | 8.3 | 145 | Manga and Brodsky (2006) |
| 91 BC | Nirano, Italy | 5.7 | 15 | Bonini (2009) |
| 91 BC | Montegibbio | 5.7 | 14.5 | Bonini (2009) |
| 5-Apr-1781 | Montegibbio | 5.94 | 87 | Bonini (2009) |
| 16-May-1873 | Montegibbio | 5.09 | 12 | Bonini et al. (2016) |
| 27-Feb-2015 | South Semau | 7 | 340 | kupang.tribunnews.com/2015/03/05/belajar-dari-lapindo |
| 28-Jan-1872 | Kalamaddyn, AZ | 5.7 | 24 | Mellors et al. (2007) |
| 29-Jan-1872 | Shikhzairli, AZ | 5.7 | 40 | Mellors et al. (2007) |
| 13-Feb-2002 | Shikhzairli, AZ | 6.9 | 45 | Mellors et al. (2007) |
| 13-Feb-2002 | Bozakhtarma, AZ | 6.9 | 51 | Mellors et al. (2007) |
| 28-Nov-1945 | Ormara, Makran | 8.1 | 41 | Delisle (2005) |
| 28-Nov-1945 | Hingol, Makran | 8.1 | 189 | Delisle (2005) |
| 28-Nov-1945 | Gwadar, Makran | 8.1 | 155 | Delisle (2005) |
| 30-May1935 | Thok, Baluchistan | 7.7 | 61 | Snead (1964) |
| 9-July-1895 | Livanoca, South Caspaun | 8.2 | 141 | Mellors et al. (2007) |
| 24-Sept-1848 | Marazy, AZ | 4.6 | 15 | Mellors et al. (2007) |

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|--------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| 4-Dec-1957 | Gobi Altay, Mongolia | 8.3 | 75 | Rukavickova and Hanzl (2008) |
| 15-Jun-2006 | Gobi Altay, Mongolia | 5.8 | 90 | Rukavickova and Hanzl (2008) |
| 26-Jan-2001 | Kandewari, Pakistan | 7.7 | 482 | Manga et al. (2009) |
| 11-Oct-2015 | Regnano, Italy | 5 | 21 | Martinelli et al. (1989) |
| 4-Sept-1895 | Portico di Romagna, Italy | 5 | 4.1 | Bonini (2009) |
| 13-Dec-1990 | Paterno, Italy | 5.7 | 39 | Bonini (2009) |
| 4-Oct-1978 | Paterno, Italy | 5.2 | 34 | Bonini (2009) |
| 5-Mar-1828 | Caltanizetta, Italy | 5.9 | 56 | Bonini (2009) |
| 5-Sept-2004 | Kumano Knoll #5, Japan | 7.4 | 80 | Tsunogai et al. (2012) |

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Table 2: Ground motion for earthquakes that have greater seismic energy density at the Lusi site than the Yogyakarta event (first line)

| Time (UTC) | Magnitude | Depth (km) | Epicenter distance (km) | Hypocenter distance (km) | Latitude | Longitude | Energy density (J/m ³) | PGA (m/s ²) | PGV (m/s) |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 2006-05-26 22:53:58.920 | 6.3 | 12.5 | 254.45 | 254.75 | -7.961 | 110.446 | 4.27e-03 | 8.87e-04 | 1.73e-03 |
| 2000-06-04 16:28:26.170 | 7.9 | 33.0 | 1216.07 | 1216.52 | -4.721 | 102.087 | 7.94e-03 | 6.62e-04 | 3.78e-03 |
| 1998-09-28 13:34:30.490 | 6.6 | 151.6 | 80.82 | 171.80 | -8.194 | 112.413 | 3.84e-02 | 6.86e-03 | 1.28e-02 |
| 1996-06-17 11:22:18.540 | 7.9 | 587.3 | 1091.49 | 1239.47 | -7.137 | 122.589 | 7.50e-03 | 6.84e-04 | 3.87e-03 |
| 1996-01-01 08:05:10.830 | 7.9 | 24.0 | 1214.88 | 1215.12 | 0.729 | 119.931 | 7.96e-03 | 6.60e-04 | 3.77e-03 |
| 1994-06-03 21:06:59.880 | 6.6 | 25.9 | 314.24 | 315.31 | -10.362 | 112.892 | 6.10e-03 | 6.42e-04 | 1.62e-03 |
| 1994-06-02 18:17:34.020 | 7.8 | 18.4 | 326.62 | 327.14 | -10.477 | 112.835 | 3.04e-01 | 3.43e-03 | 1.68e-02 |
| 1992-12-12 05:29:26.350 | 7.8 | 27.7 | 1018.01 | 1018.38 | -8.48 | 121.896 | 9.73e-03 | 4.64e-04 | 2.67e-03 |
| 1977-08-19 06:08:55.200 | 7.9 | 33.0 | 744.47 | 745.20 | -11.085 | 118.464 | 3.50e-02 | 5.80e-04 | 3.65e-03 |
| 1976-07-14 07:13:24.000 | 6.5 | 40.0 | 250.40 | 253.57 | -8.17 | 114.888 | 8.45e-03 | 1.22e-03 | 2.65e-03 |

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