

Underbalanced & Near Balanced Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico

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Minerals Management Service
New Orleans, Louisiana
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MMS
 New Orleans, La
 Sept. 19, 2001

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Maurer Technology Maurer Technology Inc.

Leader in Technology

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Maurer Technology Maurer's Joint Industry Projects

Funded by:
 Industry: Over 200 companies in 28 countries
 Government: U.S. Department of Energy and the Minerals Management Service
 Consortia: Drilling Engineering Association

Examples: Dual Gradient Drilling in Deep Water
 DEA-42 Casing Wear Technology
 DEA-44 Horizontal Well Technology
 DEA-67 Coiled Tubing Technology
 DEA-101 Underbalanced Drilling Technology

Goals: Transfer Advanced Technology
 Develop
 • New Technologies
 • Engineering Software
 • Advanced Tools and Equipment

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Maurer Technology **AGENDA-MORNING**

8:30 AM Introductions:
 Marine UBD around the world
 Application
 Geological and Conditions that Control UBD
 Equipment

10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM Well Control
 (Discussion)
 Types of UB Systems
 Foam

12:00 PM Lunch

Maurer Technology **AGENDA-AFTERNOON**

1:00 PM Industry Goals
 (Discussion and Questions)
 Planning Tools
 Barriers

2:20 PM Break

2:30 PM Discussion
 Regulatory Concerns?
 References

Maurer Technology **Something About UB Drilling**

- UB Drilling is a "new" tool that reduces costs due to lost circulation, differential sticking & reservoir damage.
- Well kick is a different definition. In UBD there is no "Well Kick", it may be part of the process.



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History of UB

- 1934 Persia- Imperial Oil
- 1949 E. Texas - Sour Lake
- 1950 California & West Texas
- 1960 Colorado and California
- 1990 Texas and Canada
- 1997 S. China Sea, N. Sea

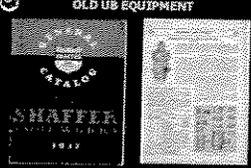


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UB Equipment

OLD UB EQUIPMENT

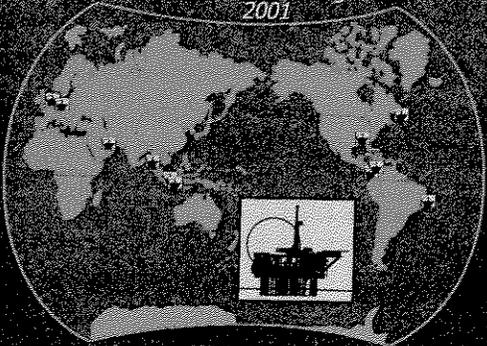


- 1937 Shaffer Rotating Head
- 1952 West Texas Separator
- 1990 High Pressure Rotating Heads
- 1992 Canadian Closed Separator
- 1997 Membrane Nitrogen

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Marine Underbalanced Drilling Areas 2001



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Shell - N.S.

Norway - some UB in Northern fields

Oman - Persian Gulf

Canada - ^{UB on} lost circulation problem

Recorded Marine Incidents

- NONE
- WHY ?
 - Planning Care
 - Training
 - Inherent danger overstressed

Brazil



- Petrobras
N²-"Mud"
Major project for UB
drilling in deep water,
one well drilled, 11
more in the project

British North Sea



- Shell UK
Brittania (Santa Fe)
Ongoing project
with more than 11
wells
- Other Projects

*Shell put lot of people +
procedures on project*

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Dutch North Sea



- NAM (Dutch Shell) (11 Wells)
- tight hole on information

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Indonesia

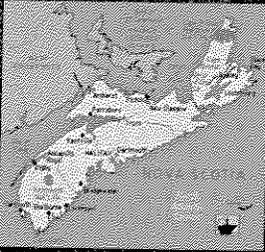


- MOBIL OIL
Six wells
SEDCO 601
N²/Water
- PERTAMINA
Repsol-YPF-Maxus
Krisna Field, N²/Water
- Three wells completed-
projected for 10 more

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Nova Scotia



- Floating Mud Cap on surface holes because of lost circulation.
- 4 + wells, ongoing

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- Nova Scotia - use to get through lost circulation zone

Venezuela



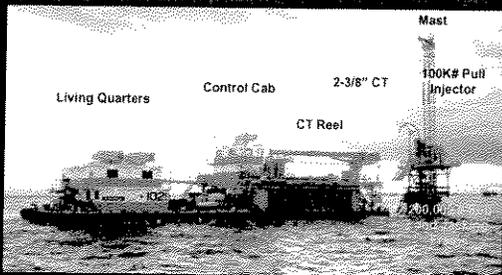
- PDVSA
- SHELL-VEN.
- PHILLIPS
- CHEVRON
- 19+ wells or re-entries.
- Special tubing/drillpipe rigs for Schlumberger and Chevron

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CTD Barge 1021 - Venezuela



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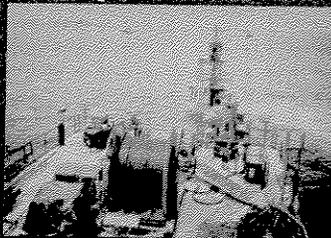
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New Wells from Surface - Venezuela

Lake Maracaibo

Shallow gas causes problems while drilling surface casings
Coiled Tubing drills 3-3/4" hole past the gas zones "remotely" from a barge



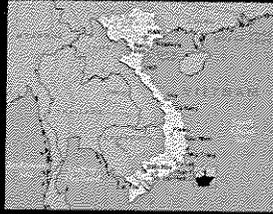
Present gas is easily diverted at surface

If no gas is found, rig will drill a normal well

Note - CT unit now casing the surface hole due to economics

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VIETAM



- Two wells

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Lost Circulation

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DUBAI



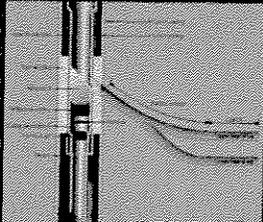
- Foam drilling through the depleted porous Arab Zone Limestone.
- Workovers and re-entries

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Through Tubing Re-Entry Dubai




- Milled thru both the 4-1/2" and 9-5/8" casing
- Drilled Dual Lateral
- Eliminated the need to pull the completion
- Selectivity solidized both legs with coiled tubing
- Performed all the services with the same unit

REDUCED TOTAL COST TO COMPLETE THE WELL

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Louisiana

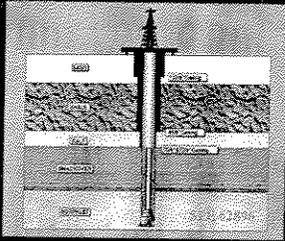


- CHEVRON and others
- At least 6 wells UB into the production zone from barges in State Land

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Extremes Hatters Pond



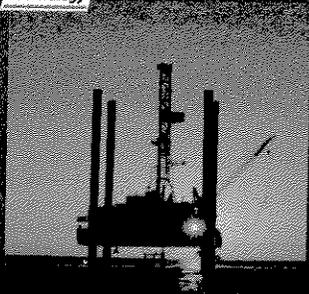
- Natl. Gas/Distillate
- 18,000'
- Smackover Dolomite
- 2600 cfm gas/26gpm diesel
- 23Mmcf
- 1360 bbl condensate
- Old Wells
3Mmcf, 300 bbl condensate

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- What Precaution

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New Subject Applications



Why Drill and Complete Underbalanced?

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200 Worldwide UB Active Wells

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JARGON



Deployment Valve

- Surging
- Quality
- Gaseated Fluid
- Foam
- Flow Drill
- Mud Cap
- Floating Mud Column
- Top Kill
- Deployment Valve

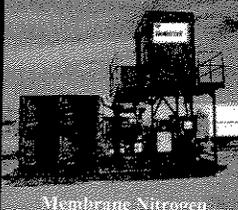
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New Term
Well Kick -

Foam - emulsion

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JARGON (CONT.)



Membrane Nitrogen

- Pipe Light
- String Float
- Cryogenic Nitrogen
- Membrane Nitrogen
- Unload (the Annulus)
- Stress/compression Failure

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WHERE? (GOM)

- Horizontal into reservoir to reduce skin damage and lower completion cost
- Lost circulation (reduce mud weight)
- By-passed production
- Differential sticking (reduce mud weight)
- Deep water geopressured zones
- DGD applications

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NO! (GOM)

- Long vertical open hole sections
- Massive shale sections
- Salt
- Faulted or slump zones

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Implications of Marine UB Drilling

- **EXTEND PLATFORM LIFE**
- **COST SAVINGS \$\$\$\$\$**
 - No lost circulation
 - No differential sticking
 - Faster drilling rate
 - Less formation damage
 - Simple completions
- **IMPROVED RATE OF RETURN**

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*→ May lead to producing stray zones
↳ Bypassed production*

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Primary Reasons for UBD



1. Stop Lost Circulation
2. Increase Drill Rate
3. Limit Reservoir Damage

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#1 preventin LC

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Other Reasons

4. Avoid Differential Sticking
5. Reduce/Eliminate Enhancement Costs
6. Find Over-looked Reservoirs

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Reduce Lost Circulation with Under Balance

Mud with LCM Reduced Pressure with Gas in Mud

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Bit Flounder

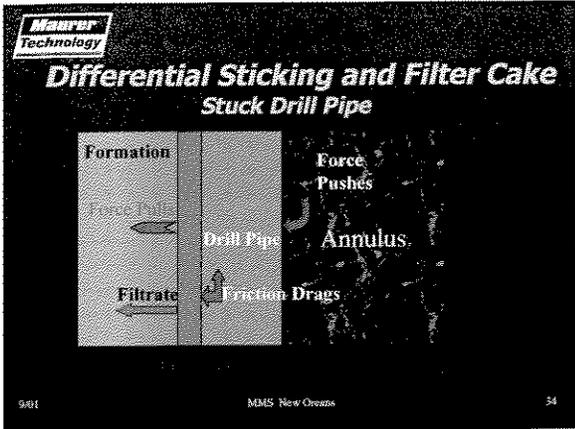
Increased Drill Rate (Not a big deal in GOM)

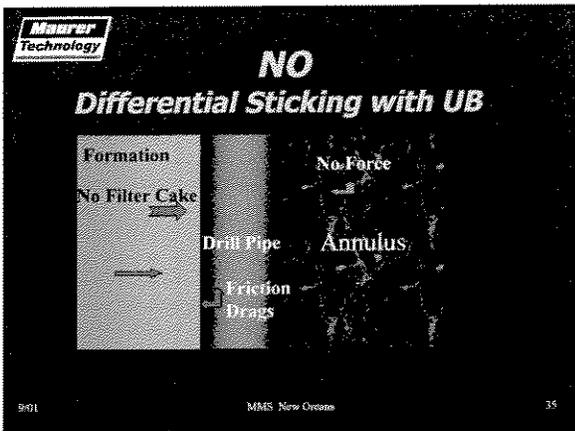
Drilling Rate ↑

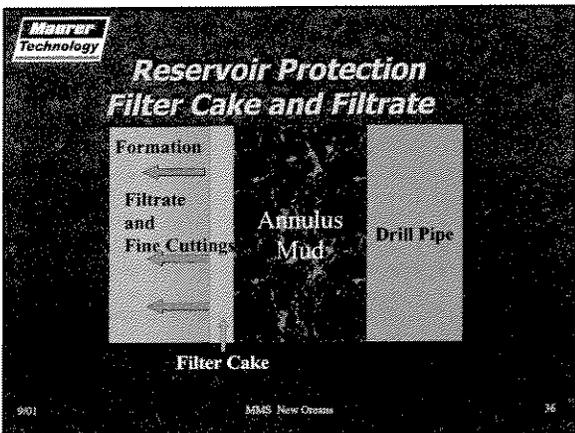
Differential Pressure

Underbalance 0 500 psi, (3500kPa)

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Skin Damage

Shows how filtrate and solid material from the mud -filter cake invade and damage a reservoir

Reservoir Core Filter Cake

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Reduce Completion Cost

- The real advantage to reservoir protection comes with open-hole completions.
- More open productive interval and no casing and enhancement costs

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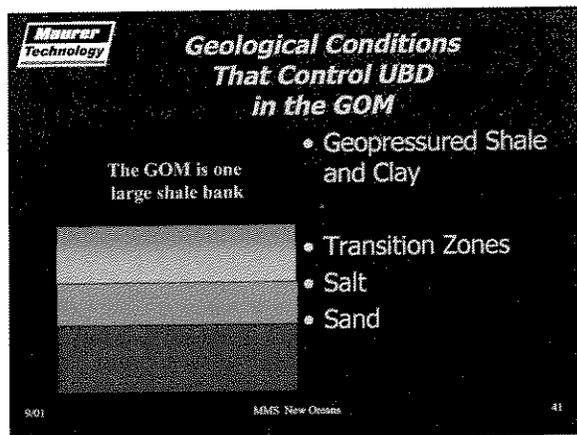
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By-Passed Production

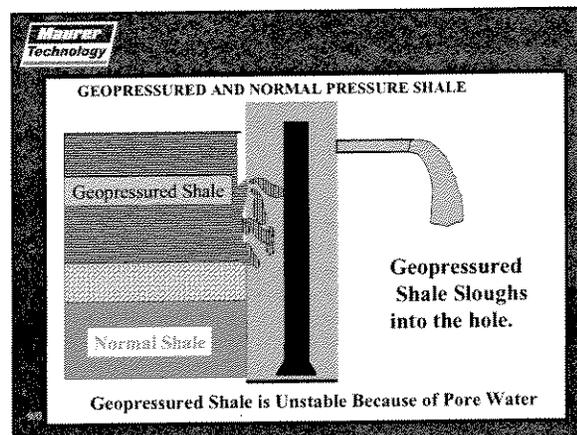
- Bypassed production shows on the log, but is damaged by mud products and will not produce.
- These thin zones can be a profitable part of production with no enhancement.

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- No UB in Salt !!
Really @ avoid salt & sand transition zone



NO UB in geopressured shale

Maurer Technology *Typical Occurrences of Wellbore Instability in Shales all found in the GOM*

soft, swelling shale
 brittle-plastic shale
 brittle shale
 naturally fractured shale

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Maurer Technology **SALT**

Salt

Salt Flows to the Zone of Least Pressure

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Maurer Technology *Unconsolidated Sand/Chalk*

Once it starts to cave in the hole, it continues collapsing.
 The solution to keep it from starting to cave.

Collapsed Sand

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Equipment

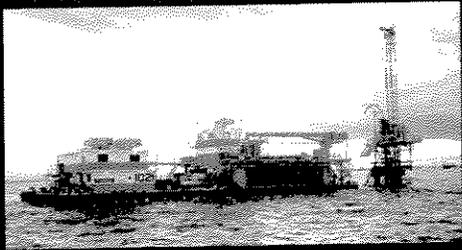
Equipment For Near Or Underbalanced Drilling



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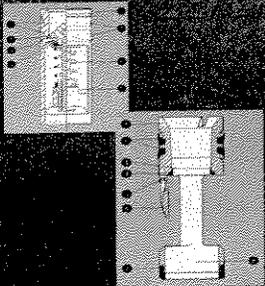
Coiled Tubing OR Jointed Tubing?



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Drill Pipe Float



- Floats are always used in near of UB drilling.
- The string float is only used with drill pipe injection of a gas.

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Underbalance Drilling

Rotating Heads & Rotating BOP's

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Manufacturers

- Weatherford/Williams
- Smith/ Grant
- Varco/Shaffer RSBOP
- Precision Drilling/RBOP

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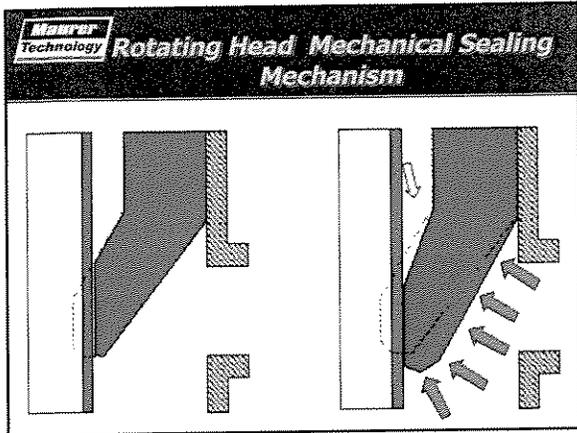
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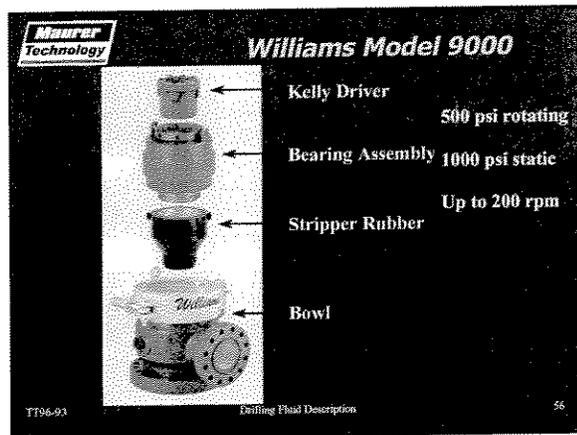
Rotating Head Schematics

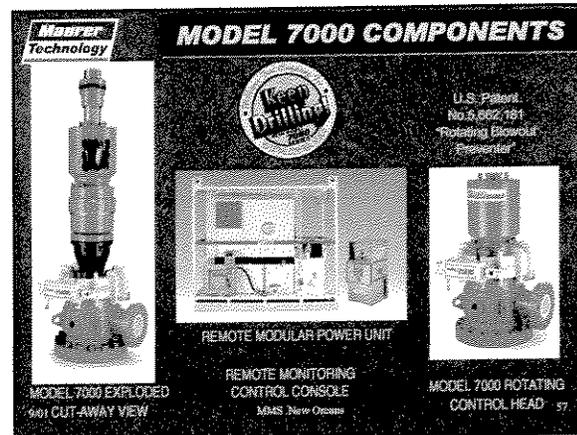


Single Element Dual Element

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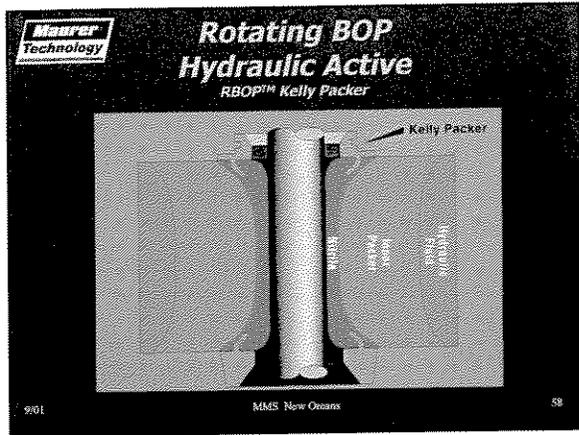


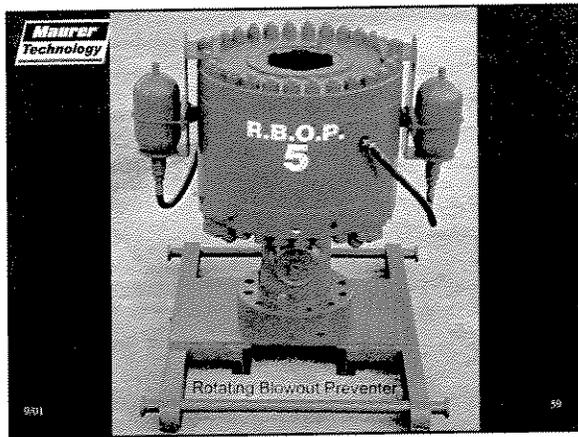


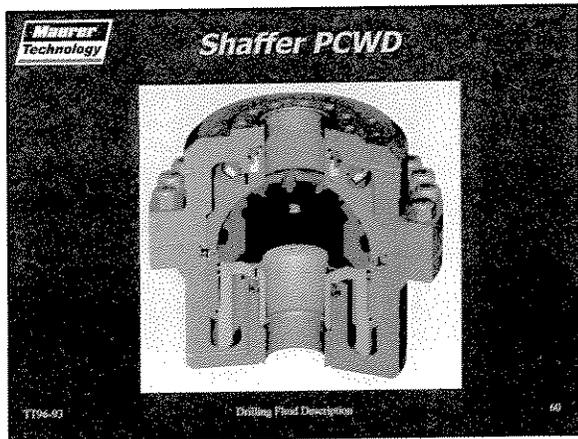
options

Testing RBOP - daily for H2S

- same as BOP stack
- every trip
-

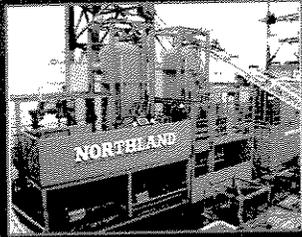






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Separators

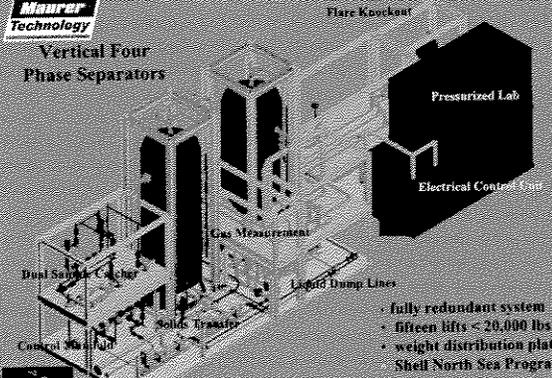


Vary from the simple gas-buster stack found on most rigs found on most rigs to very complex systems. This is a North Sea system on the Brittanica

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Vertical Four Phase Separators



Flare Knockout
Pressurized Lab
Electrical Control Unit
Gas Measurement
Liquid Dump Lines
Dual Solids Catcher
Solids Transfer
Control Manifold

- fully redundant system
- fifteen lifts < 20,000 lbs
- weight distribution plate
- Shell North Sea Program

Offshore Separation System

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LEMAR A27



- Northland Package on Cantilever Deck
- Main Deck left open for Nitrogen Generation Equipment

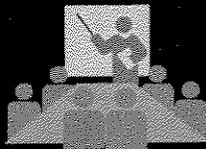
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Mud Systems



- Simpler and with less volume because pipe is set and only the zone is being drilled.
- Typically will be a water base system or a simple oil system.

Comments On Well Control



Dr. Jerome Schubert

Comments On Well Control

Drillers Method

Well Control For UBD



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Driller's Method of Well Control

Hold pump rate constant
Control stand pipe pressure with choke
This controls Bottom Hole Pressure
Increasing stand pipe pressure increases both bottom hole and casing pressure

Choke Press + AFP + HSP_{ann} = BHP = SPP - DP_{friction} - ΔP_{bit} + HSP_{DP}

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Algebraic Manipulation

- BHP = Choke Press + AFP + HSP_{ann}
- BHP = SPP - DP_{friction} - DP_{bit} + HSP_{DP}

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Effect of Choke on Standpipe Pressure

Decrease in choke size increases pressure in the well and on the standpipe gauge

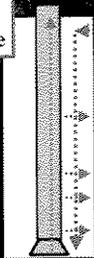
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UBD Well Control

- Goal is to maintain a constant BHP somewhat less than Formation Pore Pressure.
- Controlled by Annulus Choke Pressure
- Monitored by constant Standpipe Pressure and Circulation Rate

Effect of Choke on Standpipe Pressure

Decrease in choke size increases pressure in the well and on the standpipe gauge



With One Exception

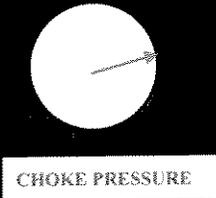
Exception

- When sonic velocity has been reached at the bit:
 - A change in pressure downstream of the bit (BHP) will not be reflected upstream of the bit (SPP)
- But, jets in the bit are usually sized where sonic velocity is usually not reached.

UBD Well Control

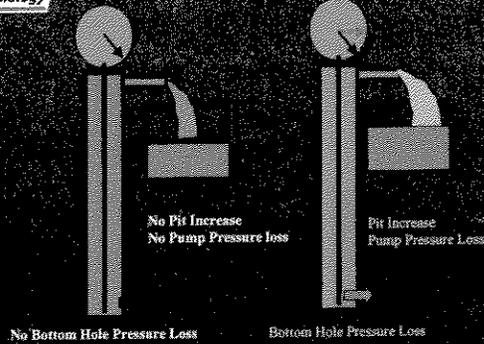
- Primary Well Control is a combination of:
 - HSP and
 - Surface Equipment
- Secondary Well Control is achieved by use of the BOP stack –
 - Annular and
 - Ram Preventers

Well Control

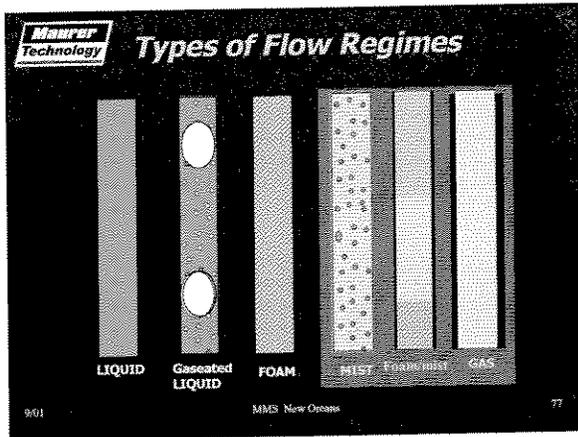


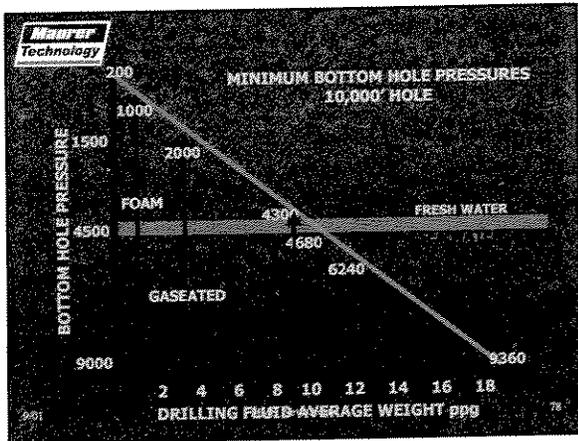
- In UB drilling and completions, the well is always under control.
- Pressure at the surface does not mean that the well is not under control

Gas Cut Mud/Pressure Reduction



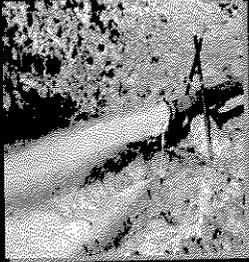






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Types Of UB Systems



- Flow Drill
- Gaseated
- Foam
- (Foam Mist)
- Mist
- Air

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New Subject

Mudcap Drilling
Or
Flow Drilling
Balanced or Underbalanced

(No Drillpipe Injection of Gas)

(IADC) "Liquid Drilling"

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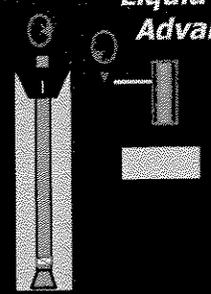
Some Examples

- Drilling with no returns, done for short intervals in GOM.
- (Formal) drilling with no returns in surface hole (Nova Scotia)
- Light mud weight (North Sea)

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Liquid Drilling Advantages



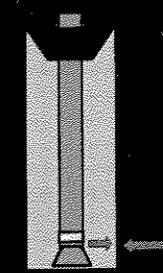
- Simple
- Minimum Extra Equipment
- Minimum Extra Cost
- LIMITED BY MINIMUM MUD WEIGHT

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Definition LIQUID or FLOW DRILLING

No Injection of Gas Into Drill Pipe

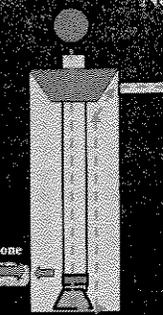


Any gas in the annulus is from the formation

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Liquid or Flow Drilling Normal Returns



Rotating Head
Choke
Separator
Float Valve
Standpipe gage

NO FORMATION FLUID TO THE SURFACE
No Lost Returns

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Liquid or Flow Drilling Gas or Fluid to the Surface

Loss Zone

Rotating Head Choke
Separator
Float Valve
Standpipe Gauge
Choke

Mud Pit

**FORMATION FLUID
TO THE SURFACE**
Possible Lost Returns

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AUSTIN CHALK

Large fractures
Take mud and loose mud at about the same pressure
16ppg mud at 14,000' + 5,000' lateral
Hard to control, but NOT out of control

**THIS IS NOT AN OFFSHORE PROBLEM OR A
TECHNIQUE THAT WOULD BE USED**

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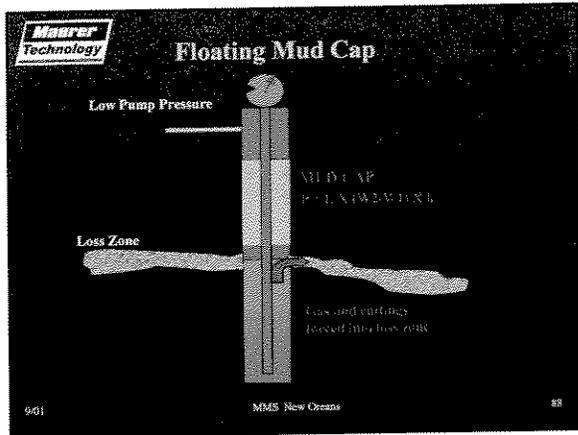
Total Lost Returns

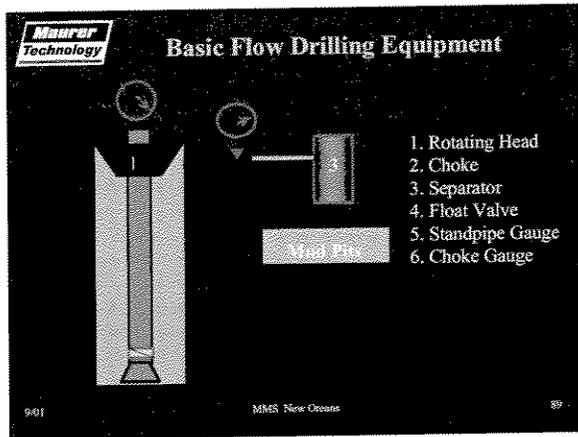
Low Pump Pressure

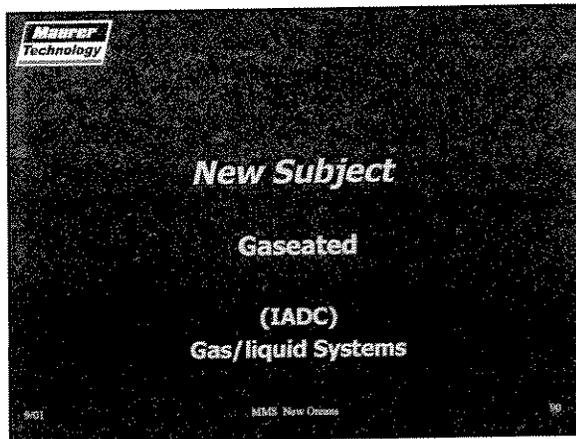
Pump Down Annulus

Possible Cuttings Accumulation

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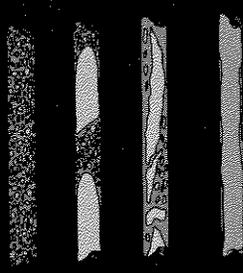






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Gaseated Systems Advantages



- Reduced Bottom Hole Pressure
- Use Any Type of Mud or Fluid
- Not Temperature Limited

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Mud Is Displaced By Gas

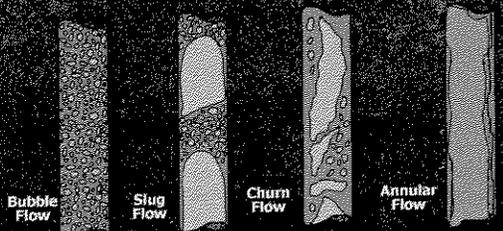


- The displacement of mud by gas makes the mud column lighter
- Measure the mud displaced into the pits as a measure of static hydrostatic loss
- (Flowing friction adds to bottom hole pressure)

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Liquid Gas Separation



Bubble Flow Slug Flow Churn Flow Annular Flow

As the amount of gas increases, the gas starts to separate from the liquid

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Limits To Gas Additions



5/1
Gas/Liquid

Lower Ratio Is
Not Effective



50/1
Gas/Liquid

Higher Ratio Is
Too Unstable

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Not Temperature Sensitive



175C 350F

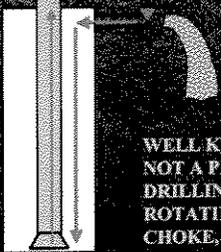
- No special gaseated chemical
- Temperature sensitivity limited to mud products
- Mud can be water or oil

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Driller's Method of Well Control

1. Hold pump rate constant
2. Control standpipe pressure
3. With choke
4. This controls bottom hole pressure
5. Increasing standpipe pressure increases both bottom hole and casing pressure



WELL KICKS ARE NOT A PROBLEM DRILLING WITH ROTATING HEAD, CHOKER, AND SEPARATOR and little or no open hole.

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Well Kicks

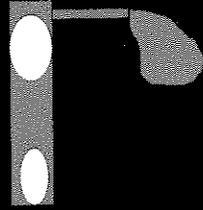


- Flow drilling with the proper equipment, the definition of Well kick needs to be changed.
- Well Kick is an uncontrolled discharge of gas or fluid from a well.

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Gaseated Problems



- Surging
 - Causes well bore instability
 - Hard to control BHP
- Unstable on connections
- Loses all air on trips
- Corrosion

All of this due to loose mixture of gas and fluid

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Gaseated Fluids Head



- Surging or heading is part of the gaseated system
- The gas and liquid separate depending on the amount of gas and the fluid velocity.
- It can be modified, not stopped

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Basic Gaseated Equipment

1. Rotating Head, Rotating BOP
2. Choke
3. Separator
4. Press. Flow Line
5. Standpipe Manf.
6. Bit Float
7. String Float
8. Lower Kelly Cock
9. Compressor Lines
10. Compressor

Mud Pits

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Special Equipment Limit Surging

- Boosting on connections
- Jet sub
- Parasite string
- Dual casing
- Other ideas have been tried

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Jet Sub

- Basic Drill Pipe Sub
- Bit Jet generally about 11/32" (17mm)
- Place at about 3000' (900m)
- Most common practice

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Parasite String

Gas

2-3" Tubing
Run with surface pipe
Tubing banded to the surface pipe
Gas injected only in the tubing

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Dual Casing

Intermediate Casing String
Gas Injection Annulus
Xtreme Line Temporary Casing
Gas Injection Ports
Mud - No Gas

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Equipment Rule

- WHAT IS NEEDED
- What is nice to have, gets you in trouble!
- COUNT BARRIERS TO EACH POSSIBLE PROBLEM

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Foam Definitions

- 90/1
- 79% @ 3000'
- Viscosity

- RATIO**- The ratio of gas/liquid injected at STP
- QUALITY**- % gas in foam at any point
- TEXTURE**- "Mud" properties
- 1/2 LIFE TEST**- Test for foamer capability

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Foam Testing 1/2 Life Procedure

Waring Blender Stop Watch 1000ml Cylinder

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Foam Testing 1/2 Life Procedure

100ml water

Foaming Agent
0.5% (.5ml)

Waring Blender Stop Watch 1000ml Cylinder

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Foam Testing 1/2 Life Procedure

Mix on high for 30 sec

Waring Blender Stop Watch 1000ml Cylinder

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Foam Testing 1/2 Life Procedure

Pour into cylinder and measure time for 50ml of water to appear
TIME IS 1/2 LIFE

Waring Blender Stop Watch 1000ml Cylinder

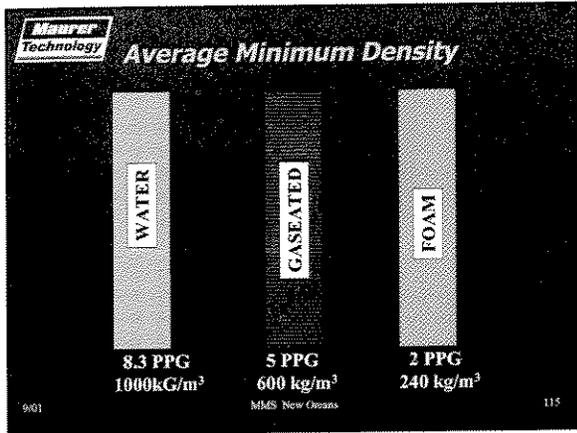
Foam
Water

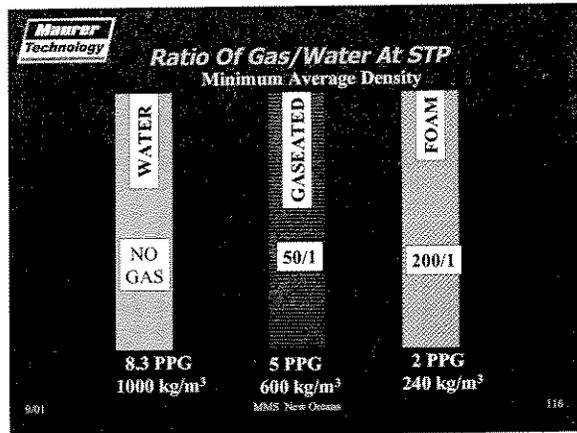
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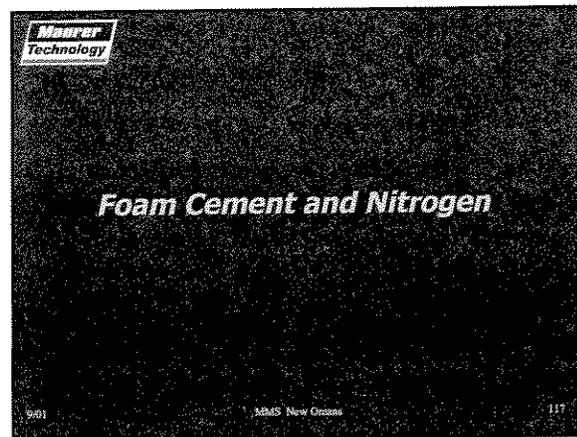
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Foam Has A Pattern

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Foam Advantages

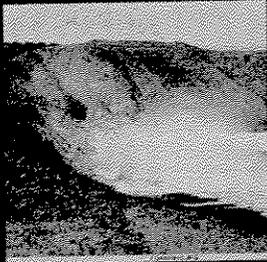


- Limit Reservoir Damage
- Stop Lost Circulation
- Increase Drill Rate
- Stop Differential Sticking
- Expose Overlooked Reservoirs

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Advantages To Foam(2)

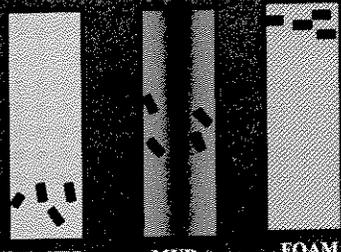


- Workovers
- Low water requirements
- Low corrosion
- Environmentally OK
- Quick Breakdown

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Lifting Capacity Of Foam

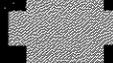


WATER MUD FOAM

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Foam Uses Lower Liquid Volumes

<p>Foam Pump</p>  <p>20 gal/min 76 L/min</p>	<p>Mud Pump</p>  <p>200 gal/min 760 L/min</p> <p>(6.5" hole @ 8000') (165mm @ 2500m)</p>
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Limits To Foam

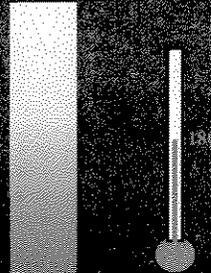


- Limited inhibition properties
- High temperature
- Large oil flows while drilling
- First time rig-up costs

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Depth And Temperature Limits

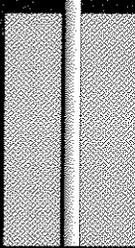


- In deep holes (12,000'+) foam ceases to be foam. It becomes just water.
- Temperature limit of about 180°F

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Corrosion



- In foam, the water and emulsifier seems to bind the oxygen and corrosion is much less than in aerated mud.
- Corrosion can be controlled even in CO₂ bearing formations.

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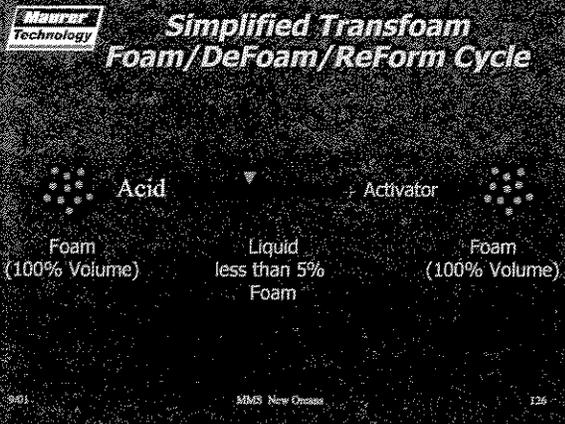


Throw Away

Re-cycle

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Simplified Transfoam Foam/DeFoam/ReForm Cycle



Acid

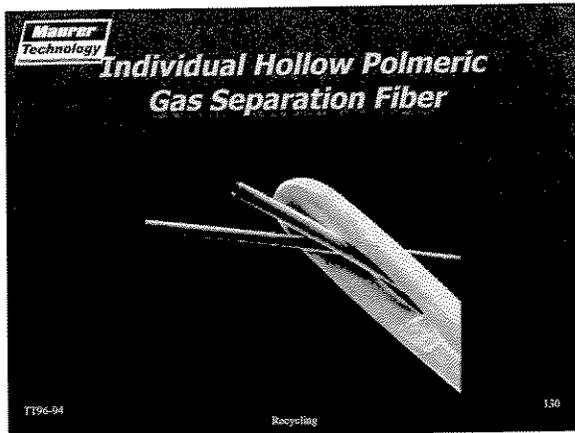
Activator

Foam (100% Volume)

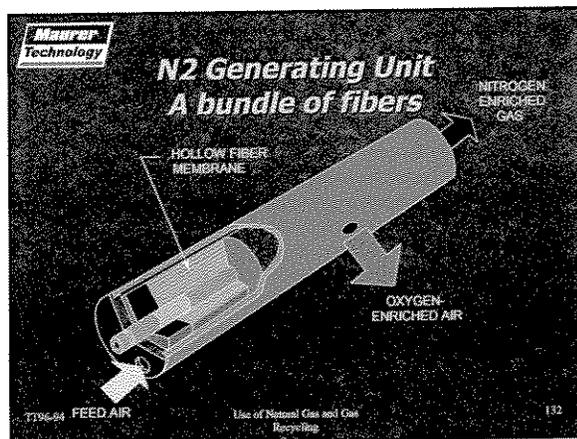
Liquid less than 5% Foam

Foam (100% Volume)

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Membrane Nitrogen Production Unit

(U.S. Patent No. 5,388,650)
Weatherford

Drilling Rig Optional Booster Compressor Filter and Air Separation Membrane System Feed Air Compressor

TT96- Recycling 133

Maurer Technology

Natural Gas Gas Recovery

- Hatters Pond NW of Biloxi
- Gas and oil recovered and returned to Texaco Gas Plant

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AMACO CROSSFIELD Gas Recovery Project

92% of Gas Conserved

Date	Gas Conserved (MBCTD)	Gas Flared (MBCTD)
11-01	2	1
11-10	10	2
11-20	12	2
11-30	8	2
12-10	10	2
12-20	13	2
12-30	14	2

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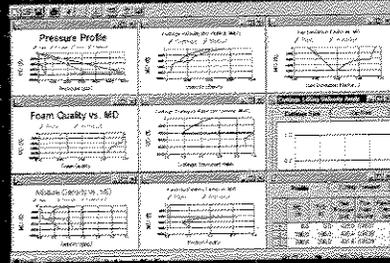
New Subject Calculations For UB Drilling



9401 MMS New Orleans 136

Maurer Technology

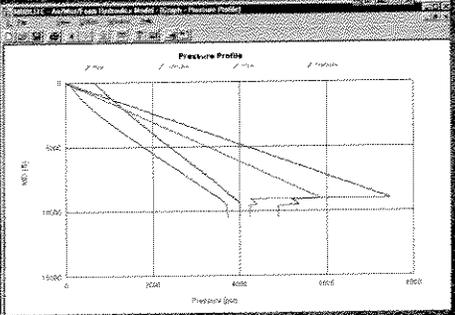
Calculations Of Foam Flow



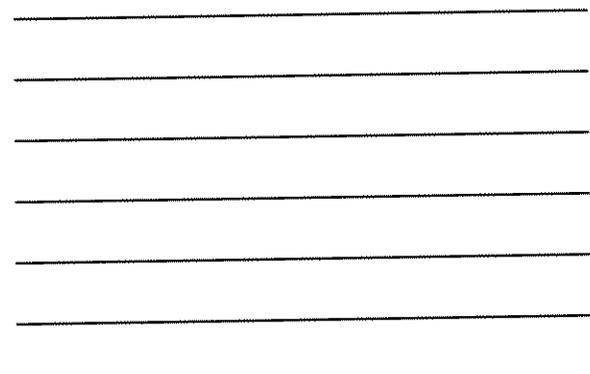
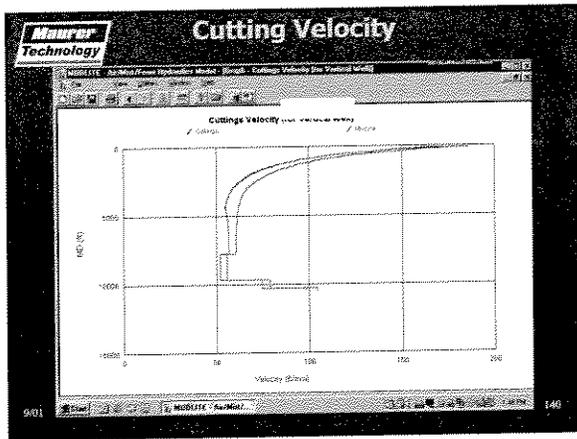
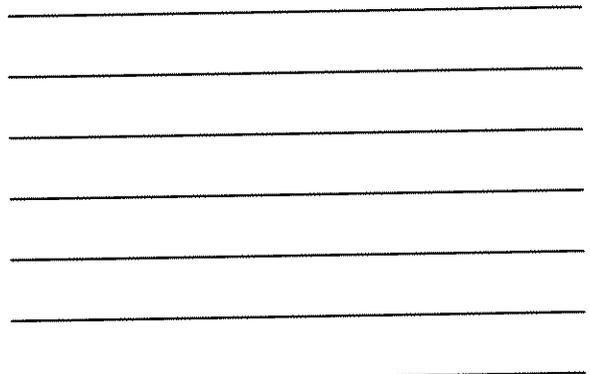
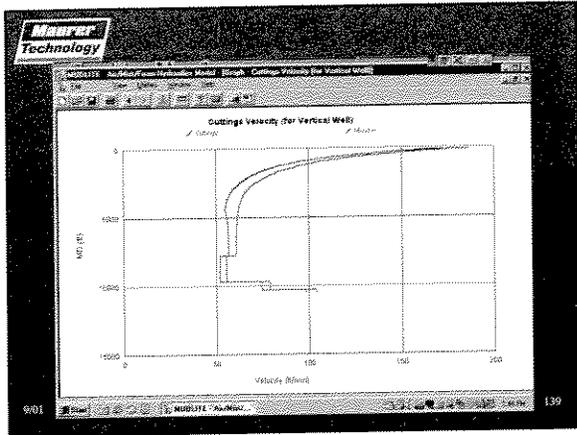
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Maurer Technology

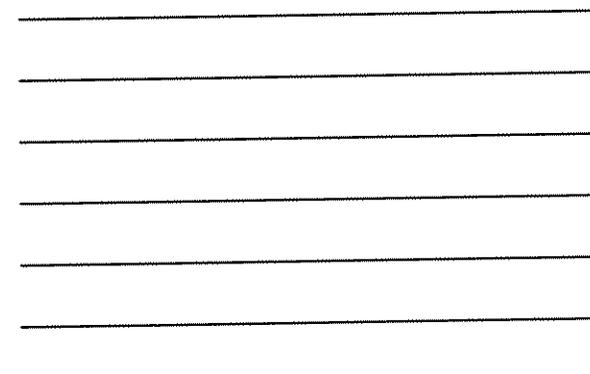
Pressure Profile

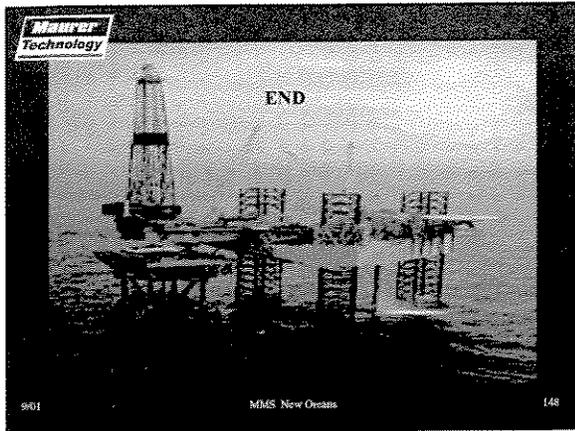


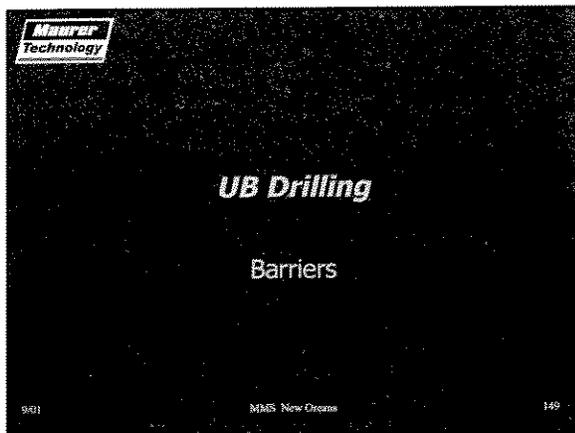
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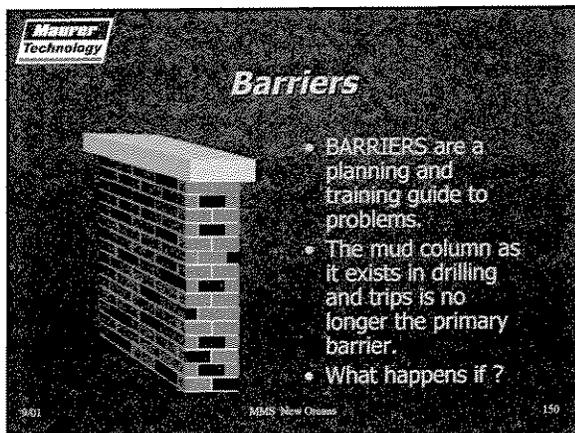


MD (ft)	TIC	Flow Rate (gpm)	Flow Rate (m³/d)	Flow Rate (bbl/d)	Flow Rate (m³/hr)	Flow Rate (bbl/hr)	Density (lbm/gal)	Density (kg/m³)	Density (lbm/ft³)	Density (kg/m³)	Pressure (psi)
0.0	6.0	875.9	0.3369	6.96	337.40	190.2	N/A	0.7236	2.29	204.68	
100.0	100.0	786.9	0.2932	6.07	303.28	175.5	3.24	0.6994	2.09	199.92	
200.0	200.0	736.3	0.2703	5.64	280.97	163.4	3.12	0.6891	2.04	195.83	
300.0	300.0	685.6	0.2502	5.17	255.62	153.0	3.01	0.6782	1.99	191.74	
400.0	400.0	635.2	0.2324	4.77	232.31	143.7	2.90	0.6672	1.93	187.76	
500.0	500.0	585.6	0.2161	4.34	210.00	135.5	2.80	0.6562	1.88	183.80	
600.0	600.0	536.4	0.2011	3.88	187.68	128.2	2.70	0.6452	1.82	179.85	
700.0	700.0	487.6	0.1766	3.39	165.36	121.9	2.60	0.6342	1.76	175.91	
800.0	800.0	439.2	0.1631	3.01	143.04	116.6	2.50	0.6232	1.70	172.00	
900.0	900.0	391.6	0.1411	2.61	120.72	112.3	2.40	0.6122	1.64	168.10	
1000.0	1000.0	344.8	0.1213	2.26	98.40	109.0	2.30	0.6012	1.58	164.20	
1100.0	1100.0	298.8	0.1034	1.94	76.08	105.7	2.20	0.5902	1.52	160.30	
1200.0	1200.0	253.6	0.0874	1.66	53.76	102.4	2.10	0.5792	1.46	156.40	
1300.0	1300.0	209.2	0.0731	1.41	31.44	99.1	2.00	0.5682	1.40	152.50	
1400.0	1400.0	165.6	0.0604	1.19	9.12	95.8	1.90	0.5572	1.34	148.60	
1500.0	1500.0	122.8	0.0492	1.00	-28.20	92.5	1.80	0.5462	1.28	144.70	
1600.0	1600.0	80.0	0.0394	0.83	-70.56	89.2	1.70	0.5352	1.22	140.80	
1700.0	1700.0	37.2	0.0312	0.69	-113.04	85.9	1.60	0.5242	1.16	136.90	











Barriers-Options

Surface Control Rotating Head	Bottom Hole Pressure Choke	Separator Separator	Choke Secondary Choke
Annular	Mud Wt	Choke	By pass manifold ?
Ram	Decrease gas	Bypass Primary	HCR Valve
Ram	Increase mud flow	HCR Valve	Mud Wt
Ram	HCR Valve		Decrease gas

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