



# DRILL BITS



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## US EPA Clarifies Offshore Maintenance “discharges”

**R**esponding to concerns raised by IADC through the Offshore Operators Committee, EPA Region 6 (which has jurisdiction over most operating areas in the Gulf of Mexico) has provided clarification regarding the restrictions associated with the discharge of materials associated with structural maintenance and surface coating activities. EPA recognizes that both MMS and Coast Guard regulations require maintenance activities to maintain the structural integrity of MODUs and fixed and floating offshore platforms.

Current discharge permits prohibit the discharge of operational wastes, including maintenance wastes.

In the early 1990's the Coast Guard

provided guidance to offshore operators that MARPOL V regulations apply to maintenance activities on offshore facilities and that to the maximum extent practicable efforts must be made to prevent the discharge of maintenance waste associated with surface preparation and coating application into surrounding waters.

This includes the discharge of airborne material associated with surface preparation and coating application such as spent and oversprayed abrasives, paint chips, and paint overspray.

Consistent with this guidance, EPA Region 6's interpretation of the NDPEs general permits is that industry recommended best practices must be employed in the containment and cap-

ture of airborne materials relating to surface preparation and coating application which can include spent abrasives, paint chips, and paint overspray.

Practices for containment of associated airborne materials include vacuum abrasive blasting, covering grated areas with plywood, surrounding the area with canvas tarps and similar measures which capture as much of the waste material as practicable with due respect to personnel safety. In addition, any collected materials must be properly packaged and shipped to shore for proper disposal.

IADC continues to work with OOC in the development of industry guidance on this issue. For further information contact: **Alan Spackman**, ext 207 ([alan.spackman@iadc.org](mailto:alan.spackman@iadc.org)).

## “Do What’s Right For The Rig”

**T**his was the central theme of **Dr Lee Hunt's** presentation at the recent International Regulators - Offshore Safety Forum in London; an international gathering of regulators and invited industry stakeholders. The conference was the first international forum for offshore oil and gas regulators of coastal states around the world, together with the major operators and contractors working in the offshore environment.

During the three day event, it was refreshing to hear many speakers, government and industry alike referring positively to IADC and the work the Association undertakes on behalf of its members. The audience was challenged

to think of the rig - think of the men and women who live and work on the rig - and then they will find common cause, specific focus and render valuable results to ensure a safer and healthier working environment on the rig. I

In summing up Dr. Hunt challenged the International Regulators Forum with a difficult task when they next meet. He suggested that they should surrender their national identities and interests; and should ask only “what’s right for the rig”; “what will harmonisation do for a Floorhand”; and “how will standardisation help a Driller work more safely”. For more information, contact **Dominic Cattini** (+44) 1895 621889 ([dominic.cattini@iadc.org](mailto:dominic.cattini@iadc.org)).

### New IADC Safety alerts are issued...

- Alert 05-13: Unguarded engine fan;
- Alert 05-14: Material handling/LTI Incident;
- Alert 05-15: Improper use of iron roughneck type equipment results in damage;
- Alert 05-16: Modified equipment - battery leads.

### Reminder . . .

IADC's Contract Committee has a general meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 1 June, at the offices of GlobalSantaFe in West Houston. Contracts Committee Chairman, **David Faure** of GSF will host the meeting at 1:30 pm. Participants are encouraged to register online on the Committee's website. For more information, Contact **Ken Fischer** ([ken.fischer@iadc.org](mailto:ken.fischer@iadc.org)).

# Drilling Engineering Association Workshop 2005 24-25 May 2005, Moody Gardens Galveston, Texas

The Drilling Engineering Association Workshop is being held 24-25 May 2005 at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, Texas.

The theme of this conference is "Challenges for Finding & Developing Deep Gas: What Are Our Limits?"

The conference will explore drilling Performance and what do operators need to drill deep gas and when do they need it? Attendees will see a presentation on the feasibility of Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> analyzed in the context of a case study; Managing Wellbore Containment; Preventing Annual Flow After Cementing-Shaken - Not Stirred and Record Drilling Performance in the HP/HT Bosque Field in Venezuela.

The conference is sponsored by: **MMS**,

## MMS proposes new user fees

In a joint letter to the US Minerals Management Service, IADC joined NOIA and affiliated trades in submitting comments concerning a new MMS "cost recovery" rulemaking. The majority of the new proposed fees are for services that have always been treated as a part of the cost of administering offshore leases for which the government has already been compensated through bonus bids, rentals, and royalties. These include changes in designation of operator, suspension of operations or production, unit line production request, gas cap production requests, downhole commingling requests, voluntary unitization proposals or unit expansions, and unitization revision or modification.

While industry recognizes MMS's need

## Technology Meet in India a Success

The IADC South Central Asia Chapter held its thirteenth Technology Meet on 8 April in Mumbai, India. Around 500 industry professionals attended the event in the ITC Sheraton Hotel, sponsored by the **PMT Joint Venture** (ONGC, Reliance Industries and British Gas India) and **Baker Hughes Inteq**. Retiring ONGC Director of Technology and Field Services & current Chapter Chairman **Mr**

**Department of Energy and IADC.**

The Program Committee includes: **Morris Keane, Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation; David Dowell, ChevronTexaco; Gary Collins, ConocoPhillips; Mike Harris, Apache Corporation; Roy Long, US Department of Energy; Dr Michael Payne, BP; Ron Bland, Baker Hughes INTEQ; Cheryl Stark, BP; Glenda Wylie, Halliburton Energy Services; Don Duttlinger, Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (PTTC) and Mike Killalea, IADC.**

For more information, contact **Leesa Teel** at 1/713-292-1945 or registration online at IADC.org.

to ensure funds for its activities, it doesn't believe the agency has the legal authority and policy guidance to require the new fees or that the fees are necessary. Existing leases don't contain provisions for the new fees, and no regulations existed at the time of lease issuance that allowed the imposition of these fees. Lessees have already paid substantial amounts, often millions of dollars, to obtain leases and substantial annual rental payments in order to maintain the leases. Industry has asked that MMS and the Office of Management and Budget consult with the Small Business Administration and reconsider particularly the proposed rule's impact on small lessees. For additional information, contact **Brian Petty** 1/202 293 0670 (brian.petty@iadc.org).

**Natu Lal** chaired the meeting. Chief Guest was **Mr Subir Raha**, Chairman & MD of **ONGC**. Other speakers on the program were **Mike Tolan** (BGEPII), **Anurag Gautam** (BHI), **U. N. Bose** (Chief Drilling Services ONGC), and **Norman Edwards** (IADC). For more information contact Chapter Vice Chairman **Mr Arun Karle**, **Askara Enterprises**, at askara@vsnl.com.

## WellCAP Updates

Accreditation Pending:

- **Halliburton Energy Services**, (renewal).
- **Bariod Drilling Fluids** (renewal).

## HSE RIG PASS UPDATES

Accreditation Awarded:

- **Regional Energy Training Center**, San Juan College, Farmington MW (conditional).
- **Capacitacion Certificada SA de CV**, Veracruz, Mexico (new).
- **Oil Drilling & Exploration Limited**, Australia (renewal).
- **Precision Drilling Company**, Villahermosa, Mexico (renewal).
- **Tenaris Oilfield Services**, Buenos Aires, Argentina (new).
- **Safe Martin**, Paraiso, Mexico (new).

## Accreditation documents now available in Word format

Application documents for IADC's accreditation programs are now available on IADC's web site in Microsoft Word format as well as PDF format. They are available for WellCAP, WellCAP Plus, UBO Rig Pass, HSE Rig Pass, and Ballast Control & Stability accreditation. For more information, please contact **Steve Kropla**, ext 211(steve.kropla@iadc.org).

## Committee Meeting

The Offshore Operators Committee General Membership Meeting will be held Wednesday, 1 June 2005 (8:15 am) at the Sheraton North Houston Hotel For information, call 1/504 561 2427 (www.offshoreoperators.com).

## Primer for Oilwell Drilling, 6th Edition

An excellent first reader of the oilwell drilling industry. The primer covers processes both on land and offshore. A good instructional tool is now available at IADC. Contact **Loretta Krolczyk**, ext 215 (loretta.krolczyk@iadc.org).

## “Open Dialogue”

The annual meeting between drilling contractors active in Europe and regulators from the region will take place at the Grand Hotel Plaza in Rome on 8th June, 2005. It provides a forum for open and constructive dialogue to address the many topical and challenging issues facing land and offshore drilling contractors in Europe and further afield.

Since its inception last year, this event has become the premier venue for bilateral dialogue between senior drilling personnel and the various regulatory authorities having oil and gas responsibilities throughout Europe.

Senior representatives from every land and offshore drilling contractor active in Europe will be in attendance; together

with regulators from throughout Europe and other parts of the world. Wider interest in the activities of the European Working Group is being shown by regulatory agencies outside the region.

Response to the invitations to attend this annual meeting is high, both from drilling contractors and regulators alike. It promises to be a very constructive and productive event, a date not to be missed. For further information, please contact **Dominic Cattini** (+44) 1895 621889 ([dominic.cattini@iadc.org](mailto:dominic.cattini@iadc.org)).

This is also the same venue for IADC's World Drilling Conference, which commences the following day; details can be found at (<http://www.iadc.org/conferences/WorldDrilling2005.htm>).

## Seeking comment on WellCAP Guidelines

IADC is seeking comment from industry and other interested parties on draft revised WellCAP curriculum guidelines for coiled tubing well control instruction. The draft revisions were developed by the Well Control Committee's Coiled Tubing Curriculum Subcommittee, chaired by Alex Sas-Jaworsky of SAS Industries.

Interested parties are invited to review training curriculum for each of the courses proposed in the Well Control Section of the IADC website. Comments should be provided in writing by 15 May 2005. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail. Comments will be reviewed at

the 25 May 2005 Well Control Committee meeting at the GlobalSantaFe offices in Houston. The subcommittee restructured the existing WellCAP coiled tubing curriculum to focus on realistic well control practices using coiled tubing well control equipment components. The proposed curriculum includes a 16-hour Fundamental Level Basic Coiled Tubing Course, a 20-hour Supervisory Level Basic Coiled Tubing Course, and a 36-hour Supervisory Level Advanced Coiled Tubing Course. For more information, contact **Steve Kropla**, ext. 211 ([steve.kropla@iadc.org](mailto:steve.kropla@iadc.org)).

## Industry testifies on Offshore Technology

On behalf of IADC and other E&P trades, **Charles Davidson**, CEO of **Noble Energy** and vice chairman of the Domestic Petroleum Council, gave testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the “blanket moratoria” that have restricted access for decades to energy development to only ten percent of US waters outside of Alaska. Davidson pointed out that new technologies in use today were not available - and perhaps not even imagined - when current moratoria legislation was first drafted.

Drilling technology continues to rapidly advance resulting in many benefits. A specific example is directional drilling that

allows development of reservoir or several reservoirs not directly beneath a platform. There has also been rapid growth in the number of “subsea” well completions which include both shallow water and deepwater production facilities that utilize the latest technology.

Davidson concluded with comparisons of a 1974 Gulf of Mexico natural gas resource estimate of 50 trillion cubic feet with today.

As a result of technological advances, industry has produced 160 tcf since 1974 and estimates are now that 232 tcf more remain. For more information, contact **Brian Petty** 1/202 293 0670 ([brian.petty@iadc.org](mailto:brian.petty@iadc.org)).

## Rigs receive ASP certificates

Each rig listed below received a certificate for the years indicated since last the LTI:

**Recognized Since Last Recordable Incident:**

**Three Years**

- GlobalSantaFe, Rigs 140, 105.

**Two Years**

- GlobalSantaFe, Rig High Island I.

**One Year**

- GlobalSantaFe, Rigs 136, Key Manhattan, Adriatic V.
- CASA Drilling, Rigs 59, 76, 5.

## IADC welcomes 18 new members

- Applied Research International PVT, India;
- Arrow Drilling LLC, Oklahoma;
- Ascom Group SA, Moldova;
- Big Horn Basin Development Co, Oklahoma;
- EMGS AS, Norway;
- Evertson International, Venezuela;
- Growth Capital Partners LP, Texas;
- Heartland Oil & Gas Corp, Colorado;
- Industrial III, Texas;
- Instituto Mexicano Del Petroleo, Mexico;
- International Rig Equipment LTD, Texas;
- Nance Universal HVACR Technical, Texas;
- Papco Inc, Pennsylvania;
- PISC International inc, Texas;
- Rock Oilfield Services and Saipem America, Inc/SONSUB, India;
- Subsea, Texas;
- Speedy Heavy Hauling Inc, New Mexico;
- Titan Drilling, Oklahoma;
- TSC Manufacturing & Supply Co, Texas.

## Rowan wins MMS Award

Rowan Companies, Inc received the 2004 Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE). The SAFE Award was established in 1983 to recognize outstanding safety achievement by offshore oil & gas operators & contractors.

## IADC featured at Australian Conference

IADC Senior Vice President - Government Affairs **Brian Petty** delivered a plenary address at the annual conference of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association in Perth 12 April on the subject of offshore security entitled "Protecting Our Offshore Assets". The presentation described the response of US authorities in regard to offshore oil and gas operations after the "9/11" terrorist attacks, and the resulting global interest in securing offshore facilities, particularly in Australia. In 2004, representatives of Prime Minister Howard's Cabinet visited IADC and US security regulators in Washington to gather information for developing an appropriate system for safe-

guarding Australian offshore oil and gas assets, particularly on the Northwest Shelf and in the Timor Straits. The result was the creation of the Joint Offshore Protection Command headed by the Australian Defense Force and Australian Customs, which came into existence 31 March. Mr Petty requested APPEA members to stay closely engaged with the Joint Command to avoid tendencies by the Government to "gold-plate" security systems by imposing overly prescriptive and redundant regulations. The Australian agency is off to a good start, and is expected to closely liaise with its US and European counterparts. For more information, please contact **Brian Petty** 1/202 293 0670 (brian.petty@iadc.org).

## WellCAP records requirements

IADC has issued WellCAP Bulletin 05-03 is to reiterate and clarify procedures to be followed by WellCAP-accredited training providers when reporting certificate information to IADC. The bulletin is available from the WellCAP online documents listing on the IADC web site. Records of WellCAP certificates issued are to be provided to IADC using the Excel spreadsheet supplied by IADC when certificates or numbers are ordered. Training providers must ensure that a correct e-mail address is provided to IADC for this purpose. Training providers must notify IADC promptly of any change of e-mail address. All fields on the spreadsheet must be filled out, except in certain cases. Columns for Course Levels, Course Types, Course Length and Stack Qualification must be completed with the appropriate

codes listed in the Well CAP Course Codes Listing, Form WCT-24. Form WCT-24 was included as part of the bulletin. It is also available from the Program Administration section of the WellCAP Online Documents listing on IADC's web site at <http://iadc.org>.

The bulletin contains other items for general guidance on the use of student identification numbers, student names, and instructors. Records are to be reported to IADC within 90 days after certificates or cards are issued. Repeated failure on the part of a training provider to observe these measures will be brought to the attention of the WellCAP Review Panel for possible disciplinary action. For more information, contact **Steve Kropla**, ext 211 (steve.kropla@iadc.org).

## New course form introduced

IADC has released Form WCT-3C to facilitate the application, review and approval of additional types and levels of courses by WellCAP providers. The form may also be found in the online WellCAP documents section of the IADC web site at [www.iadc.org](http://www.iadc.org) in both PDF and Microsoft Word formats. Accredited providers should use this form to document levels and types of courses not previously approved by the WellCAP Review Panel. In addition to the information requested in the boxes on the form, providers should also include a detailed course outline, at least one example of a test to be used in the course, a completed WellCAP Cross-reference Tool for the appropriate course type, and all manuals, handouts, or other student materials used with the course.

Training providers were notified of the new form in WellCAP Bulletin 05-02, which can also be found on the IADC web site. For more information, please contact **Steve Kropla**, ext. 211 (steve.kropla@iadc.org).

## World Drilling 2005

The World Drilling 2005 Conference is being held at Grand Hotel Plaza Rome, Italy 9-10 June 2005. This is a premier event that will cover the latest technology in Downhole Tools, Global Land Drilling, Bits, Equipment Well Delivery, Health, Safety and Environment, and Dynamic Drilling. Sponsors include: KCA DEUTAG; MED SERV; SHELL; GLOBALSANTAFE; and GRANT PRIDECO.

IADC has arranged special rates at two Hotels in Rome, the Grand Hotel Plaza and the Hotel Nazionale.

For more information, contact The Netherlands - **Anne Otten** at 31/24-6752252 or USA - **Leesa Teel** at 1/713-292-1945.

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