

MPD/UBO processes under further improvement with HSE planning guidelines, 'best practice' draft

ADVANCING UNDERBALANCED operations and managed pressure drilling is a high-activity area for IADC.

The association's **Underbalanced Operations & Managed Pressure Drilling Committee** is chaired by **Joe Kinder** of **Secure Drilling LP**. **Gavin Humphreys** of **Stena Drilling** serves as vice chairman, and **Ken Fischer**, IADC vice president—Middle East and Asia, provides staff support.



Ken Fischer

In 2006, the committee has seen a number of accomplishments and has made progress on several important initiatives. Once again this year, a manufacturing specification drafted entirely by the group was submitted to API for adoption. After final revisions by the task group, chaired by

Ken Malloy of **Mohr Engineering**, the document was adopted by API as Spec 7NRV, Specification for Drill String Non-Return Valves.

On another important front, the committee's **HSE & Training Subcommittee** has updated the IADC UBO HSE Planning Guidelines to incorporate managed pressure drilling considerations. This effort, chaired by **Adrian Houlbrook** of **Weatherford**, resulted in a revised document, which can be found online at www.iadc.org/committees/underbalanced/completed_documents.html.

The committee's primary activity this year has been the development of a "best practice" document for underbalanced operations. Such a document has long been the committee's goal, and many of their earlier deliverables, including the IADC Classification System for Underbalanced Operations and Managed Pressure Drilling and the Standards Gap Analysis, have been critical to this important process.

Drafting work began in early 2004, partly in response to a fatality that occurred in Canada on an underbalanced operation. A task group was formed under the leadership of **John Ramalho** of **Shell** to work cooperatively with a similar group in Canada. Work has progressed steadily since and is expected to be completed by year's end.

The resulting document will be submitted to API for adoption as a Recommended Practice (RP) and will be referenced by a new Canadian Industry Recommended Practice (IRP). It may also be presented to the International Standards Organization, ISO, for adoption as a global standard.

Just as these projects are being finalized, the committee has plans to undertake several more activities. The HSE & Training Subcommittee intends to update the requirements of the UBO WellCAP curriculum, and the Fluids Subcommittee is being reactivated.

Members with an interest in underbalanced operations or managed pressure drilling are encouraged to participate. The committee meets quarterly, with the venue alternating between Europe and North America to encourage broader participation. The committee's meeting schedule as well as other useful

information can be found online at www.iadc.org/committees/underbalanced/index.html.

CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

The IADC **Contracts Committee**, chaired by **David Faure** of **GlobalSantaFe**, continues to focus on the maintenance of the model contract forms.

After completing extensive revisions to the forms used in US drilling operations, the group has turned its attention to the international contract forms, and a long-awaited revision of those documents is nearing completion.

In order to support and manage this work, the committee holds periodic meetings open to all drilling contractors. These meetings combine work on ongoing initiatives with updates on recent and pending court cases impacting drilling operations. Contract issues arising from losses sustained during the 2005 hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico have also dominated the agenda this year.

Additionally, the next Contracts and Risk Management Conference will be held on 8-9 Nov 2006 in Houston, continuing the tradition of one of IADC's most successful industry events. For a schedule of future meetings, log onto www.iadc.org/committees/contracts/index.html. ♠