

IADC champions onshore drillers' interests

IADC IS THE champion of the interests of the onshore drilling industry. While many areas of IADC's endeavors are relevant to land and offshore contractors—such as HSE, training and well control—the interests of US onshore contractors are especially impacted by activities of the Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency, OSHA, and other state and federal agencies.

For more than 60 years IADC has represented land contractors in these and other issues.

FUNDS FOR TRAINING

The US Department of Labor offers funds for training rig personnel for contractors and institutions. IADC convened meetings among DOL officials, contractors and academics to facilitate the grant process.

DOL representatives spoke at HSE and Training Committee meetings, and earlier this year IADC Government Affairs was instrumental in arranging a key luncheon between DOL officials and industry training managers.



Joe Hurt

EMISSION RULES

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to issue emissions rules for non-road diesel engines, which were, until now, largely exempt from Clean Air Act regulations.

Though a rule has not yet been issued, EPA apparently plans to place requirements on engines and limit to 15 ppm the sulfur content of diesel fuel.

EPA plans to send the draft proposal to the White House by year end. Several IADC work groups, including Government Affairs and HSE Committees and the Offshore Division, are studying the proposal.

CONTRACTS

Sweeping revisions to US land model form contracts are modernizing the documents to reflect current operating trends and recent court decisions.

Scott Gordon, Unit Drilling Company, chaired the Contracts Committee task group that issued new versions of the Drilling Bid Proposal and Daywork Drilling Contract - US, Drilling Bid Proposal and Footage Drilling Contract - US and Model Turnkey Contract. The task group convened in Oklahoma City, Midland, Texas, and Houston to gain input from a large segment of the US land community.

IADC ASP PROGRAM

The IADC ASP Program is the definitive reference for the drilling industry. Since its creation 40 years ago, ASP has evolved to meet the changing needs of a dynamic industry.

For example, ASP guidelines have been revamped to conform with the new OSHA 300 rules, aligning ASP with the system most major operators worldwide intend to require for contractor reports. OSHA already requires US land contractors to report incidents under the 300 rules.

Reporting regions were expanded from three to seven, replacing the international region with five specific geographic categories: Canada, Central and South America, Middle East, Africa, and Asia/Pacific. These regions join the existing US and Europe categories.

Ninety-nine contractors representing 235.83 million manhours worked participated in the 2001 ASP. Contractors striving for safety improvement by participating in the ASP program reported 4,311 Recordable Incidents, 1,144 Lost Time Incidents and 20 fatalities. The "2001 Summary of Occupational Injuries" is available on a CD-ROM or hard copy.

The 2001 summary showed that LTI and recordable incidence rates rose for the second consecutive year, in contrast to the industry's long trend of continuous improvement in safety performance.

Industry wide, according to the "2001

IADC Summary of Occupational Incidents" (SOI), the rate of lost time incidents during 2001 rose 10% to 0.99/200,000 manhours from 0.91/200,000 manhours in. Recordables increased 4% to 3.66 in 2001 from 3.52 in 2000.

HSE AND WELL CONTROL

Improving the industry's health, safety, environmental and well control practice is a key mission for IADC. IADC keeps this mission at the top of its agenda through industry-developed manuals, conferences, workshops and other means.

The HSE Committee, led by **Bill Hedrick** of **Rowan Companies**, plans to complete a new version of the industry-standard "IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide" by early 2003.

Modifications will include new, dedicated sections on fall protection and the environment, as well as updates to reflect current practice.

The IADC Well Control Committee conducted four Well Control Trainers Roundtables between October 2001 and August 2002, the first Roundtables since 1996.

Topics included cementing, underbalanced drilling, dual gradient operations and case studies of well control incidents.

In addition to regular meetings along the Gulf Coast, the HSE Committee has gone on the road. Earlier this year, the committee met in Casper, Wyo., and the group plans to convene in late 2002 in Midland, Texas, and Oklahoma City.

Members discuss an array of issues, including the Accident Statistics Program, OSHA requirements, and key IADC safety publications, such as the "IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide" and the Rotary Rig Inspection Sheet.

To assist US land HSE specialists gain a better understanding of the new OSHA reporting rules and the modifications to the ASP guidelines, IADC held a series of workshops in Casper, Wyo.; Midland, Texas; Oklahoma City; Jackson, Miss., and Houston. ■

WellCAP, RIG PASS ensure proficiency

WELLCAP, IADC'S program for ensuring well-control proficiency through accreditation based on carefully considered industry benchmarks, reached several milestones during the past year.

The Offshore Operators Committee (OOC) named WellCAP as its preferred training standard for the Gulf of Mexico.

The endorsement came well in advance of the October 2002 effective date of new MMS regulations placing responsibility for well control training directly on offshore lessees. With this endorsement, WellCAP entered an important new phase.

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The number of schools with approved or pending WellCAP accreditation stands at 55, up 20% from last year's 46, and they operate in 47 countries.

Also during the past year, the first WellCAP schools were accredited for wireline, coiled tubing and snubbing, and underbalanced drilling.

WellCAP and RIG PASS promotional brochures were updated, including a new logo for RIG PASS. The brochures are available in English and Spanish.

WellCAP is a dynamic program, as recent enhancements attest. Deepwater well control topics were incorporated in the WellCAP core curriculum guidelines for subsea drilling well control.

IADC also implemented a program to provide individual certificates of approval for WellCAP instructors. The Introductory Level of WellCAP was revised to allow greater flexibility in

delivering basic well control instruction to rig personnel.

Additionally, with cooperation from the IADC Northern Arabian Gulf Chapter, **Saudi Aramco** recently opened its landmark Contractor Training Center in Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia.

The facility was championed by Aramco President and CEO **Abdallah S. Jum'ah**, with strong support from IADC North Arabian Gulf Chapter Chairman **Khulgan Al-Barry**. Future plans include providing WellCAP accredited well control training.

RIG PASS, IADC's program for basic rig safety orientation, has also had an exciting year. 53 RIG PASS schools now operate from 90 locations in 11 countries.

More than 83,000 RIG PASS cards have been issued throughout the industry, and they have been redesigned to provide a space for an optional student photo. ■

UBO Cmte to develop standards

THE UNDERBALANCED OPERATIONS Committee, one of IADC's most active, has worked aggressively developing standardized forms and operating guidelines, among other things.

The Committee reached an agreement in principle with the API under which the UBO Committee will draft UBO supplements for existing API specifications.

It is envisioned that these supplements will ultimately be incorporated into the appropriate API standards.

Rotating control heads and chokes used in underbalanced operations are examples of the equipment to be addressed.

The project is the result of the committee's gap analysis of existing technical standards to address deficiencies in existing technical documents.

This gap analysis in turn was the result of the IADC Well Classification System for Underbalanced Wells issued in 2001.

UBO TRAINING

WellCAP's UBO curriculum for supervisory personnel has drawn applications

1st IADC contract now 50 years old

AN EARLY GOAL of IADC was the development of standardized model contracts.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first IADC model form contract, which was a footage contract.

The IADC's contract work continues today, not only with model contract forms but with contract workshops around the world to keep members up to date on new developments while bringing fundamental instruction to emerging regions.

For example, a workshop in January in Dubai focused on contract issues specific to Middle East operations. In September, a workshop in Krakow, Poland built on the success of similar workshops in 1998 and 1999.

The contract workshop program in other areas will continue in 2003. ■

from several training institutions. Plans are in place to develop curricula for introductory and fundamental levels of training.

Additionally, the UBO Committee approved and released a RIG PASS safe-

The Underbalanced Operations Committee, one of IADC's most active, works aggressively to develop standardized forms and operating guidelines.

ty orientation accreditation program for underbalanced operations.

This is designed to provide a basic understanding of UBO techniques and equipment and related hazards.

Also, a new IADC-written UBO glossary is available that provides definitive guidance to UBO terminology.

New drilling fluids guidelines assist in the selection of roper fluids for underbalanced operations. ■