

# Onshore drilling interests protected by IADC

**IADC CONTINUALLY MONITORS** issues and proposed regulations that affect the interests of onshore drilling contractors.

Onshore drillers' activities can be impacted by the activities of the US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA, among other state and federal agencies.



Joe Hurt

## SPCC PLANS

IADC submitted comments questioning whether "mobile equipment" was included in the June extension of the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rules. Owners of fixed facilities have been given a one-year extension to develop and implement SPCC plans for their sites. Owners of mobile equipment visiting the site should be granted the same extension.

IADC requested that the EPA provide mobile and portable facilities the same extension granted to fixed facilities.

The oil company or operator of the well site (the fixed facility) will have information about the site and will make a determination regarding potential negative impact to navigable waters in developing a site plan. This information is critical to determine how the mobile equipment plan is applied to the site.

Due to these comments and those of other associations within the oil and gas industry, the EPA issued a "Final Rule" giving an 18-month extension. In this Final Rule the EPA included an explanation that covered mobile equipment in this extension.

## IADC ADDRESSES OSHA

In an effort to promote OSHA's awareness of IADC's commitment toward safety, Joe Hurt, IADC Director Land Operations, addressed OSHA's Region VI Area

Directors workshop held in Dallas. Mr Hurt explained IADC's ongoing projects and efforts as well as describing various IADC committees. Mr Hurt explained how these committees are working toward improving safety in the oil and gas drilling industry. Discussions also highlighted individual efforts of IADC member companies toward improving safety on their rigs.

The structure of IADC along with the IADC Mission Statement were explained to the attendees. IADC's RIG PASS employee orientation accreditation program and the WellCAP accreditation program were also explained to the Directors.

Other OSHA regional offices have also requested presentations, and several of these presentations are in the planning stage.

## HSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the year, IADC conducts numerous regional HSE Committee meetings in various regions of the United States where our members are operating. IADC also holds its general HSE Committee meetings in Houston throughout the year. The meetings provide a forum for IADC's land-based HSE operations personnel to discuss any problems and to learn from the experiences of others in safety related areas.

Two meetings will be held in Midland, Texas, this year as well as in Casper and Rock Springs, Wyoming, and Oklahoma City. Another is tentatively planned for the South Texas area, possibly in Corpus Christi.

## RIG MOVING COMMITTEE

The IADC Rig Moving Committee has been meeting on a quarterly basis at various locations that are hosted by the members. IADC Rig Moving Committee is continuing to develop guidelines for rig-up trucks and rigging equipment.

Among other items, the committee is examining the design of rig-up trucks and the type of rigging such as winches and gin-poles, and is working toward development of a rig-up truck design, inspection and certification guidance document.

The IADC Rig Moving Committee's mission is to protect employees, equipment and the environment by providing leadership and guidance for industry practices and regulations. The committee also provides a forum to exchange the best practices of members and to disseminate those practices to the IADC membership. The committee also serves as a channel for members, government agencies, manufacturers and customers to interact to improve the performance of the industry in matters relating to rig moving activities.

## PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

IADC has commented to OSHA on an issue regarding personal protective equipment where OSHA is proposing that employers pay for all personal protective equipment, which could put undue hardship on employers. Most drilling contractors will supply specialized equipment such as respirators, chemical aprons, face shields and goggles, but it is up to the employees to provide the rest of their equipment such as hard hats, gloves and steel-toe boots.

## TAXING MOBILE EQUIPMENT

IADC has been working to ensure that off-road use of mobile equipment does not fall under an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax covering tires, diesel fuel and anything else that could be used over a road as opposed to off-road use. The IRS wants to tax truck mounted rigs and equipment as though it spends all of its time on the road, whereas, a lot of the rigs rarely, if ever, are on a public highway.

## SAFETY MEETINGS

The IADC HSE Committee is updating and revising its 52 Topic Safety Meeting and 5 Minute Safety Meeting books. The update will incorporate some of the newer technology applied to rigs and drilling operations that were not included in the current version.

The revisions will also bring topics currently in the book up to date and in alignment with standards for the equipment in the field today, including topics about power tongs, top drives, automatic slips, air winches, etc. ■