



Letter to the President

Dear Lee,

I just wanted to send you a brief note about your Drilling Onshore Conference. I really enjoyed being there and seeing all the progress you have been making in the past seven or eight years that I have been gone. It was very impressive to see the attendance and the exhibits and the enthusiasm everyone has, your staff included. What really got me energized to write was the list of conferences that you have lined up. Wow! All over the world! I can't imagine how you keep up. Whatever it is, keep doing it, because all the contractors will benefit if they attend. Nice going, maybe I will back again one of these days and we can visit again.

Your friend,
Sherman

Sherman Norton was formerly president of Norton Drilling and in 1988 became the first recipient of the IADC Contractor of the Year Award.

IADC CHAIRMAN MEETS GOVERNOR ON E&P ACCESS

2008 IADC chairman **John Lindsay** of **Helmerich & Payne** joined producer representatives in a Denver meeting with Colorado Gov. **Bill Ritter** to express concerns about proposals of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) to limit E&P activity in the state. Draft regulations would suspend drilling operations for three months each year, allegedly in the interest of wildlife protection. Not only would that discourage contractors from working in the state, Mr Lindsay argued, but the drilling suspension could be as long as five months, considering the time needed for rig mobilization and de-mobilization.

EU MINISTERS ANNOUNCE NEW WORKING TIME PROPOSAL

After years of political impasse, EU ministers came to a political agreement on the way forward with a new Working Time Directive (WTD). This agreement still must be formally adopted and run the gauntlet of EU Parliamentary scrutiny, but as currently drafted, it would be acceptable to the offshore E&P industry. It would solve the "Jaeger" issue, which involves an European Court of Justice decision holding that any time an employee is at the "call" of the employer constitutes working time. That decision would make it virtually impossible for most EU employers to manage shift cycles, including traditional offshore rotas. The sticking point these many years had been the UK's insistence on an "opt out" from the Directive for employees wanting to work longer than the 48-hour weekly maximum. Under a compromise, a Member State could choose a 12-month reference period – a key objective of IADC for offshore work – but must relinquish the opt-out. If choosing to retain the opt-out, the reference period's limited to six months. ♠

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