

Warren, B.W., McLellan, P.J., and Pratt, K., Wellbore Stability and Drilling Fluids Design for Horizontal Wells in Peace River Oil Sands, Alberta, SPE/IADC 29426, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Feb. 1995.

Abstract

Shell Canada Limited drilled two pairs of twin horizontal wells in the Peace River oil sands in the summer of 1993. This paper describes the detailed planning for the drilling of these wells, including wellbore stability, hole cleaning, differential sticking, lost circulation and torque-drag concerns. The drilling fluid selection process used to address potential problems will be highlighted. The value of thorough pre-planning led to the successful drilling of these four, one kilometer long horizontal wells in underpressured, uncemented oil sands.

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