

IADC volunteers: Making a difference across a broad swath of issues

DRILLING CONTRACTORS must commit to involvement on inter-industry projects or run the risk of being left out as regulations and standards affecting their business are made by others. In a number of areas, IADC committees are forging ahead with proactive studies and efforts to avoid that sorry but very real possibility. IADC volunteers are active in a broad sweep of initiatives—marine architecture, training, well control, HSE and other areas.

IADC COMMENDED

IADC's efforts were recently recognized by a commendation from the **US Coast Guard, US Minerals Management Service** and the **National Research Council**.

In a letter to IADC President **Dr Lee Hunt**, USCG Commandant **Adm James M Loy**, MMS Director **Walter Rosenbusch** and NRC Chairman **Dr Bruce M Alberts** wrote, "We are pleased to recognize the International Association of Drilling Contractors as a leader in promoting offshore safety and issue this commendation for its significant safety achievements and continuing dedication to the safety of life at sea.

"Your attention to safety stands as a worthy and beneficial example to all companies operating offshore, and we applaud IADC's attention to the health and welfare of the men and women who work in the marine environment. Please accept our congratulations for your ongoing contributions to the enhancement and promotion of safe operations in the offshore energy industry."

The commendation recognizes IADC's volunteer development of the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines and other efforts.

"The efforts put forth by volunteer members and professional staff of IADC are justly deserving of this recognition," remarked IADC President Hunt. "On behalf of the officers and directors of IADC, I congratulate them for this recognition and extend our gratitude for their participation and contribution."

DRILLING STRUCTURES

IADC volunteers recently sank their teeth into the issue of rethinking the design of drilling and well-servicing masts and derricks. IADC formed a new task force to develop contractor positions in light of API's revision of Spec 4F, the standard for those structures. **Mark Childers**, General Manager-Technical for **Atwood Oceanics**, will chair the new committee.

Until the formation of the new work group, the Spec 4F ball had been carried by the IADC Jackup Committee. However, by definition, the composition of the committee omits participation by most contractor segments.

"The Spec 4F rewrite could affect the people with floaters even more than the people with jackups," said **Rowan Companies'** Vice President **Danny McNease**, Chairman of the IADC Jackup Committee.

The rewrite will also affect land contractors, as well as both new *and* existing land and offshore rigs.

JACKUP COMMITTEE

The IADC Jackup Committee is itself charged with participating in developing and revising jackup design and assessment and to evaluate and fund projects to advance state-of-the-art jackup designs. It also aims at assisting in the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers' development of site-assessment guidelines for jackup drilling units.

The committee represents essentially everyone with an interest in the subject—drilling contractors, classification societies, shipyards, marine surveyors, designers, oil companies, and consultants. SNAME is an associate organization to this IADC committee.

DEEPWATER ISSUES

In conjunction with other groups, IADC is working several important deepwater issues for the Gulf of Mexico. One effort is MMS's deepwater blowout contingency plan guidelines. The Offshore Operators Committee and the IADC

Deepwater Well Control Task Force are working this problem.

IADC is working in conjunction with API on FPSO guidelines and recommended practices. This is part of a larger effort with API to determine deepwater standards and RPs.

Other issues in the API/IADC basket include specs for synthetic mooring lines, oil and gas measurement for deepwater and elsewhere, dual-gradient drilling (the new *nom de guerre* for "riserless drilling"), and deepwater well-control guidelines.

HSE

The IADC HSE Committee is chaired by **John Auth, Diamond Offshore Drilling**, with **Bill Herring of Parker Drilling** the Vice Chairman-Land. The committee comprises 3 subcommittees—Ergonomics, chaired by **Bill Hedrick**, Rowan; Safety Engineering by Design, chaired by **Randy Brown, Nabors Industries**; and Wellness, chaired by **Bob Raulston, Global Marine**.

The Safety Engineering by Design Committee has established an ambitious agenda of reviewing and, when applicable, reengineering key areas on today's rig floor with the goal of cutting accidents. Subcommittees are Tong Redesign, with a Hawkjaw working group; Sack Weights, which is looking at sack lifters and weight lift tables; Escape Devices; and Pre-slung Loads.

The Ergonomics Subcommittee is working up an organized contractor response to new OSHA guidelines on the subject.

Finally, the Wellness Committee is developing guidelines for rig nutrition and exercise. Mr Auth remarked that too often, after a floorhand winds up his shift, he'll go down and work out with weights.

"That's the last think he needs to do," Mr Auth said. "What he needs is aerobics." Mr Auth commented that offshore meals could stand a jolt of improved nutritional content, as well.

Other HSE topics of interest include marine cargo handling, respirator protection guidelines, spill control and countermeasure plans, the Global Drilling Safety Leadership Initiative, the Annual IADC HSE Conference and a new item, the IADC Standard Questionnaire and Audit.

Recently, the draft of the new IADC Standard Questionnaire and Audit was posted in the HSE Committee section of the IADC web site (<http://iadc.org/committees/hse/index.html>). Written comments are welcome and can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed (sqa@iadc.org). Comments may also be placed in the HSE committee discussion group on the IADC web site.

TRAINING

The IADC Training Committee, formed less than 2 years ago, has hit the ground running. The Committee has launched several projects since its inception, starting with development of KSAs for rig personnel. KSAs for the first 8 positions have been completed. There is also an ongoing program for crane operator training and certification.

Another important project is development of an IADC Model Training Record Book. The first draft of the TRB has been completed by a work group led by **Casey Brooks**, Director-Quality HSE & Training for **R&B Falcon Corp.**

Inaugural Training Committee Chairman **Scot Rudolph**, Manager-Organizational Development for **Transocean Offshore** stepped down from his post following the IADC Annual Meeting. His successor is the notable training professional **Dr Allen Kelly**, Training Manager for Diamond Offshore Drilling, who previously served as Vice Chairman. The new Vice Chairman will be **Tom Clarke**, Director of Training & Safety for **R&B Falcon Offshore**.

WELL CONTROL

The IADC Well Control Committee just unveiled a major addition to its landmark well-control training program WellCAP. Most recently, the committee completed work on new WellCAP curriculum guidelines. The new guidelines cover Wireline Operations and Well Servicing Operations-Coiled Tubing and Snubbing. This essentially extends the WellCAP umbrella over all drilling activities covered by US federal regulations for the OCS.

The curriculum outlines are available

on the IADC website in the Well Control Committee section and the Well Control Committee Discussion Group.

Part of the impetus for the new curricula is the MMS's plan to revamp its OCS training regulations to eliminate its longstanding prescriptive approach.

WellCAP is ideally poised to step in as an accrediting system, explained IADC Well Control Committee Chairman **Bob Burnett**, Training Manager for Global Marine. In 1998, WellCAP schools issued 4,211 certificates. In comparison, MMS issued 8,228 certificates of its own.

"Over the next 2 years, we expect this number of WellCAP certificates to steadily increase as MMS stops certifying schools," Mr Burnett said.

The Well Control Committee will meet on 9 Dec, 1999, hosted by the **Petroleum Extension Service (PETEX)** in Austin. To register, contact **Barbara Burrage**, 1/281-578-7171, ext 217 (fax, 1/281-578-0589; barbara.burrage@iadc.org). ■

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