



Exploration and Production Drilling Support

Onshore Drilling Projects

Gulf Coast Onshore

Our client was the operator of a lease along the gulf coast of Texas. Despite having a track-record of successful drilling operations in West Texas, the client faced new challenges when drilling deep, high pressure gas wells along the gulf coast. Prior to contacting Alpha, the drilling progress of a gas well had completely stalled with their previous drilling management service provider unable to provide a solution for progress. Alpha Petroleum Services was asked to provide Drilling Management support and a solution to bring the well on-stream as quickly and effectively as possible.

The APS team encountered very challenging well conditions, with the production horizon at over 17,000 feet, plus pore pressure and temperature in excess of 15,500 psi and 325°F respectively. The mud weight required to control the well was extremely close to the formation fracture gradient. Problems with lost circulation and hole collapse threatened the success of the well.

The Alpha team identified and evaluated alternative approaches and recommended a modified drilling plan with a high expectation of success. The client quickly approved the revised well plan and requested immediate implementation of the plans. The Alpha drilling team then assumed direct supervision of the drilling operations and well was successfully drilled and completed near 17,000 feet deep with 17 ppg mud.

Western Texas

Client was small start-up Exploration and Development company with acreage in Western Texas trying to prove an attic oil play on an old depleted reef field. The project success depended on drilling, evaluating and completing wells as efficiently as possible. APS was asked to evaluate the existing drilling plans and then to assist in implementing the drilling program with the existing management team.

APS evaluated the existing plans, proposed revisions and made recommendations for improvements in executing the plans, assisted in evaluating bids for rigs and services and recommended award of contracts. APS was then asked to assume an active role in the drilling of the three wells. This was accomplished and the three wells were drilled and completed or abandoned within the planned time and budget allotted for the project.

APS had been offered an opportunity to financially participate in the play development. After careful study, we declined to participate on the basis that we did not think there would be a high probability of success. We were proved to be accurate in our assessment.



China Coal Bed Methane Project

Our client was a start up company with an existing coal bed methane project in China. Their first well was a directional herring-bone profile multi-lateral designed to prove the concept and the economics of that coal bed for methane production. The drilling was difficult and the well had reached a point where no further progress could be made under the direction of the client's drilling management. APS was asked to evaluate the situation and if possible to recommend a plan to finish the well and place it on production.

APS evaluated the situation, determined that the well could most likely be finished and agreed to assume engineering and supervisory responsibility to finish the program. APS immediately recognized the shortcomings of the rig selected to drill the well. The design of the rig imposed limitations that were very detrimental to coal seam drilling. APS devised a method to circumvent the design limitations. We also recruited qualified on-site supervisors to provide daily direction and supervision of the drilling contractor and service companies. The well was subsequently drilled and placed on production.

Miscellaneous Onshore work

Kurdistan: Client had drilled a well in Northern Kurdistan and tested the well using an Electric Submersible Pump. Client requested that Alpha Petroleum Services (APS) review the ESP performance during the test because of lower than expected rates delivered by ESP System. APS concluded that the ESP performed to specifications.

Mexico: Client had acquired a project onshore Mexico that required the reentry and recompletion of existing wells and drilling of new wells. APS was asked to provide cost estimates for the drilling and completion work for budgetary purposes.

Iraq: Client required drilling and completion cost estimates to redevelop an existing field in Iraq. APS was contracted to provide budgetary drilling and completion cost and time estimates for the project.

Louisiana: Client retained APS to evaluate a re-entry and new well drilling project in South Louisiana and recommend whether or not to participate in the project.