

Background

Drilling the intermediate sections of six wells with low-toxicity oil-based mud (LTOMB) posed handling and disposal challenges for the cuttings, which can pose an environmental risk. Discharge to the environment is prohibited in the UK North Sea unless the solids contain less than 1% total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH). The operator needed an environmentally reliable cuttings solution to handle LTOBM cuttings at the rig site and eliminate shipping the waste to shore.

The M-I SWACO offshore thermomechanical cuttings cleaner treatment system and the CLEAN CUT* cuttings collection and transportation system were selected to address these concerns.

Technologies

- Offshore thermomechanical cuttings cleaner treatment system
- CLEAN CUT cuttings collection and transportation system

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On-Rig Treatment of Cuttings for Discharge Recovers USD 340,000 Fluid for Reuse

2,968 tonUK of oil-based cuttings treated on the rig and discharged at <0.1% TPH



A total of 2,968 tonUK of oil-based cuttings was treated on the rig and discharged with average TPH of less than 0.1%, significantly lower than the 1% regulatory limit, with zero NPT. Additionally, 2,870 bbl of base oil valued at USD 348,000 was recovered for reuse and an estimated 3,600 offshore crane lifts were eliminated.