

AMOCO AUSTRALIA PETROLEUM COMPANY
KOORKAH NO. 1

DISCUSSION BY INTERVAL

17¹/₂" Hole (Cont'd)

General (Cont'd)

On running in to log, the hole was bridged at 4048 ft. The mud weight was subsequently raised to 9.8 ppg, the hole reconditioned and logs and casing were successfully run.

Solids Control Equipment

Upon the recommendation of Amoco's Mud Consultant, the solids control equipment was upgraded by the addition of a second high volume centrifuge.

The solids control system was run as a closed loop system, thereby saving on estimated 600 - 700 bbls of water and chemicals per day, which would otherwise be discharged overboard. Considering the shortage of drillwater in this hole phase (see General section), the importance of this system can not be over-emphasized.

The solids control equipment consisted of a 5 x 10" cone desander, a 15 x 4" cone desilter, 2 Sweco mud cleaners which were run as desilters, a Baroid 24" x 38" High Volume Centrifuge, a Sweco 24" x 40" SC4 Centrifuge, and 2 Swaco shale shakers which were run for most of the drilling with 20/20 mesh screen to reduce mud losses due to blinding with gumbo.

Despite high drilling rates of 200-300 ft hour, and dispersive formations being drilled, the solids control equipment running in a closed loop mode generally performed well. Maximum mud weight for this section was 9.3 ppg and maximum low gravity solids content was 59 ppb with an average of 45-50 ppb, despite massive volumes of solids being generated (up to 50 tons per hour).

To be able to maintain a low-solids system as requested by Amoco, without this system could only be accomplished by significantly higher dilution rates than 1.7 bbls/ft as experienced on Koorkah No. 1 and the resultant higher chemical consumption and cost.