

REAL RESULTS

Successful Sidetrack Through Hard Formation Saves BP America 25 Days

Objectives

 Run casing string to targeted depth. The drilling bottomhole assembly (BHA) was stuck and resisted fishing efforts, necessitating a sidetrack. The depth and hardness of the formation had foiled a previous attempt, in which a conventional cement plug and motor assembly were used. Another sidetrack solution was needed.

Results

- Weatherford installed a cement/screw-in type whipstock for the wellbore departure. The 13 1/2-in. OD system was anchored into place, using the stuck fish (at 15,854 ft, or 4,832 m) and cement. A conventional drill bit on collars was used to drill the cement plug to the top of the whipstock at 15,781 ft (4,810 m). Drilling down the whipstock face (16 ft [5 m] plus 4-ft [1.2-m] rat hole) was accomplished in 16-1/2 hr. The wellbore was successfully sidetracked to the next casing point.
- Casing was run through the window without incident, and the string was cemented into place.

Value to Client

 Successfully sidetracking through the high-compressivestrength formation avoided the need for a costly contingency plan that involved moving uphole several thousand feet to softer rock and sidetracking off a cement plug. Re-establishing the original depth with this contingency operation would have taken about 25 days.

