

From: Burns, Tim A
Sent: Mon Jan 28 23:26 03 2008
To: Plott, Ronald S
Subject: Re: Horizon BOP Stack Test Ram Question
Importance: Normal

Would be surprised to see those kinds of pressures at the well head. I think the shoe would breakdown or worst case the casing would burst first

But I understand the dilemma

TB

Sent via BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Plott, Ronald S
To: Skelton, Jake; Burns, Tim A
Sent: Mon Jan 28 23 08:09 2008
Subject: RE: Horizon BOP Stack Test Ram Question

Tim, Jake's memory is pretty good and not much to add

A key driver was that the wellhead to BOP connection was the only connection that was not physically tested at the surface.

In the earlier days of GoM DW drilling, pore pressure prediction were questionable and thus oil and gas kicks were not that uncommon. With hydrocarbons being brought up to the surface on moored rigs in 600 -2000' water pushed people into wanting some assurance that things were going to seal (including WH ring gasket) and thus they felt better with a 15,000 psi test than say 10,000 psi test. No guarantee but at least you could say you did everything possible. Additionally BOPs seals have improved over the years. I can remember a couple times having to swap the MM seal ring gasket for the MM/elastomeric WH ring gasket to get a test.

I personally can not ever remember a WH gasket leaking during a well control situation but can remember the choke line connections leaking gas as we tried to bring out a kick at East Breaks. Thus people were skeptical and some of that still carries over today.

Ron

From: Skelton, Jake
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 2:48 PM
To: Burns, Tim A
Cc: Plott, Ronald S
Subject: RE: Horizon BOP Stack Test Ram Question

Tim,

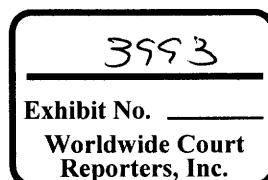
I have copied this note to Ron Plott. He has a lot of GoM experience and probably remembers better than I do.

The BP Policy (20.2.1) states,

"The slump test will be to the maximum anticipated wellhead pressure expected in the well."

That being said, there was an old practice used by many that the same maximum anticipated pressure was used in the first test of the BOP components when it was installed on the wellhead. The practice changed as time proved the

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reliability/integrity of the BOP systems. The only component that does not get tested on the stump was the connection between wellhead and BOP. When the practice of testing to the maximum anticipated pressure on seafloor was relaxed, this was the one component that many people hung onto and the compromise was established to test the connector to the higher pressure

The connection between the wellhead and the BOP is also the point of integrity that can not be recovered and fixed if there was a problem later in the well. This argument was also used in the idea of testing the connection to the highest pressure, believing that, if there was a leak, you would have minimized the cost of the faulty connection early in the well.

Hope this helps.

Jake

From: Burns, Tim A
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 10:53 AM
To: Ward, Martin D; Coltrin, George; Reed, Jimmy; Skelton, Jake; Costa, Karlin K
Cc: Guide, John; Butler, Carl H; Douglas, Scherie D; Sims, David C
Subject: Horizon BOP Stack Test Ram Question

Here are the documents we shared earlier.

<< File: BOP Test Ram.doc >> << File: TFN Test Ram Conversion.doc >> << File: Horizon Test Ram (Rev 9-28-04).doc >>

Current practice

- 1 - Drilling riserless intervals, run surface casing;
- 2 - Run BOP and riser;
- 3 - Latch up, close blind shears and pressure test surface casing (and connector) to 250 psi low and "surface casing pressure test value" high;
- 4 - TIH with test plug. Set test plug and test BOP connector to highest BOP test pressure approved for well. POH with test plug.

Do you guys recall how or why we began the practice in Step #4 above?

Appreciate that this is the best opportunity to perform this step. As we use the test rams for the remainder of the well, the connector only gets tested when we test the blind shear rams to casing test pressures. And never to BOP test pressures

This high pressure test requirement (of the connector) is not specifically mentioned in the MMS regulations.

Was this action to address an MMS or a BP Policy concern? Are there any documents in place to support this practice?

Thanks,

Tim Burns
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