

## The Alaska Driller

The Newsletter of The American Association of Drilling Engineers  
Anchorage, Alaska Chapter - PO Box 93538 Anchorage, AK 99509-3538

### AADE AK Chapter MISSION

*To provide the forum for the dissemination of practical drilling technology to those employed or interested in the drilling industry.*

### AN AADE Monthly Forum

When: **Wednesday – February 17, 2016**

**RSVP by EoB  
Mon 2/15/16**

Time: **11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Where: **BPXA Atrium Conference Rooms A, B & C**

Speaker: **Various BPXA, ConocoPhillips, Hilcorp**

Topic: **Operators Forum**

Reservations: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=ppjzc>

or [www.aade.org/chapters/alaska/](http://www.aade.org/chapters/alaska/)

**From the President** by Eric Dompeling, SolstenXP [eric.dompeling@solstenxp.com](mailto:eric.dompeling@solstenxp.com)

January saw a different kind of presentation from the last few we have had. Cathy Foerster drew a crowd of about 40 people to listen to the presentation on the need to implement the hydraulic fracturing regulations in Alaska. With all the scrutiny that hydraulic fracturing has received in the last 5 -10 years; the AOGCC felt it was time to update the regulations to specifically address fracturing operations in Alaska.

In addition to fracturing, the commission has been studying the issues and the reservoir, working with the operators to provide a north slope, gas sales decision. Near and dear to her heart the BLM legacy well work is moving slowly forward to get those wells cleaned up, plugged and abandoned in accordance with the regulatory standards required of and by the Federal and State governments.

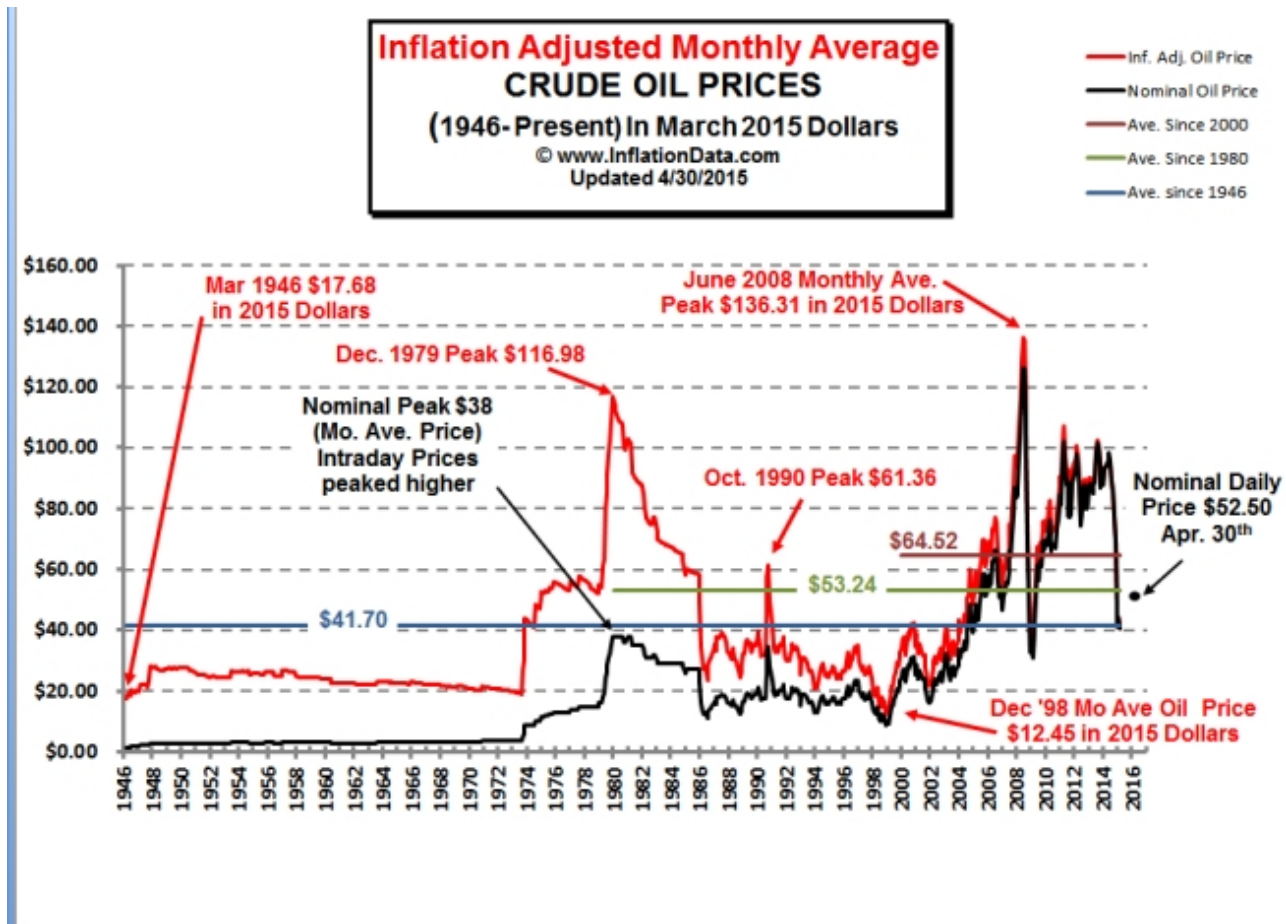
It was a brief and timely conversation about the role of the regulator in Alaska's Oil and Gas production and exploration. Not only, to ensure that private or public companies do their part to ensure that the environmental rules are followed, but that a governing body will and should be held to the same high standards. The legacy wells that the AOGCC brought to the attention of the Federal Government and the public a few years ago, have lingered in an un-abandoned state for too long. Closure of these wells is long past due and I applaud Ms. Foerster for pushing for action.

The month of February is the Operators Forum. This meeting will be a joint meeting with SPE. We currently have 3 companies that will be speaking about their 2016 operations. Although we are all anxious about the price of oil and the prospects for reduced activity, there must be a bright spot somewhere in all of this gloom.

Case in point; in 1998 after a steady downturn for most of the year Oil hit \$8.60 in November and things looked to get much worse before they got better. People were getting laid off – I got laid off; depression was here, oil prices wouldn't recover for years according to the pundits.

Within 10 months the price had recovered to the mid \$30's per barrel; the State of Alaska put away their rainy day scenario - again. Is it really different this time? Sure we have Shale development – but what's happening to conventional production? Who knows what will happen in the coming 12 months that could change even this picture.

One things for sure - It won't stay the same! See you on the 17<sup>th</sup>!



## **Liberty Prospect Development** Comment Period Extended through March

### **BOEM Extends Comment Period on Liberty Prospect Development and Production Plan**

*January 26, 2016*

In response to a request from Hilcorp Inc., the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is extending the public comment period for the Liberty Prospect Development and Production Plan (DPP) Environmental Impact Statement. The additional time provided by the bureau will allow Hilcorp to continue important outreach to North Slope stakeholders regarding the proposed project.

The original comment deadline, set for January 26, has been extended by an additional 60 days.

As part of its regulatory program, BOEM issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on September 25, 2015. This EIS will analyze the DPP's potential environmental effects, and will provide opportunity for public comment. The environmental analysis of the DPP will be closely coordinated with numerous federal and state agencies and consultations with appropriate federally recognized tribes. BOEM will not make a decision to approve, disapprove, or require modifications to the DPP until after the completion of the EIS.

To comment, or to review comments, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter "BOEM Liberty" in the search field or BOEM-2015-0096. The commenting feature will be available in the days following the original January 26 deadline. Comments must be received by midnight Eastern Daylight Time on the date indicated in the [regulation.gov](http://regulation.gov) announcement.

Hilcorp's Liberty DPP can be viewed at: [www.boem.gov/Hilcorp-Liberty/](http://www.boem.gov/Hilcorp-Liberty/).



## Call for 2016 Speakers at UAF

If you have the time to travel to Fairbanks to speak to the AADE Student Section on one of the following subjects contact James Niedermeyer at [James.Niedermeyer@bp.com](mailto:James.Niedermeyer@bp.com)

Some suggested topics are included below, but not limited to the following. If you have a topic that might be of interest to Students, contact James Niedermeyer or Dr Patil and suggest a presentation.

- **Completion design**
- **Managed pressure drilling**
- **Under vs. Over balance drilling**
- **Coil Tubing drilling / Coil completions**
- **Gas lift, ESP and velocity string production**
- **Production design and engineering**
- **MWD/LWD**
- **Inflatable Bridge Plugs**
- **Extended reach drilling and completion**
- **Oilfield Service company process and Procedures**

**Friday Presentation**

AADE Student Section.

Your donation of \$1000 and the matching contribution from ConocoPhillips

---

## Tips from the State

**From AOGCC; by Guy Schwartz**

**Permitting Statistics** (as of January 31, 2016)

Permits to Drill:	2016- <b>16</b>	2015- <b>22</b>
Sundry Notices:	2016- <b>67</b>	2015- <b>47</b>

### **LOT/FIT Best Practices and Basics:**

Every Permit to Drill (PTD) application requires a Formation Integrity Test (FIT) or Leak Off Test (LOT) procedure included as part of the approved package per regulation 20 AAC 25.005(c)(5). The FIT/LOT data must demonstrate that the integrity of the casing shoe is sufficient to contain the anticipated wellbore pressures as stated in regulation 20 AAC 25.030(f). An LOT is a variation of this test that takes the pressure to formation leak-off. The results of the FIT/LOT impact decision making; with regard to casing setting depths, mud weight, well control and remedial cementing.

Current industry practices vary with regard to conducting these integrity tests but here are some basic "best practices" that should be included. Also, it is very important that on-site rig personnel understand your expectations for conducting these tests as they are critical to ensuring a safe drilling program.

1. Regulations require a minimum of 20 ft. and max of 50 ft. of new Open Hole (OH) be drilled out of casing shoe. (*In the case of a window drilled off a whipstock conduct the LOT/FIT 20 -50 ft. past the bottom of the window opening.*) POOH with BHA into casing before conducting the FIT/LOT procedure.
2. Make sure the mud is uniform throughout the system.
3. Use an accurate, calibrated pressure gauge with appropriate scale.
4. Make sure the surface equipment is pressure tested before starting test and monitor the BOPE annulus (*i.e. pipe rams are holding*) during the FIT test.
5. Use a high pressure / low volume pump to perform the test. Pump at low, consistent rate (.25-.50 BPM max) and record pressure for each increment (volume) pumped.
6. The previous casing pressure test should be pumped at the same rate as the FIT test. The data for both must be plotted together on the same chart (pressure vs. volume pumped). The two pressure plots should have a similar slope and the FIT can never have a higher slope than the casing test.
7. An FIT test is taken to a pre-determined pressure and stopped before the formation begins leaking off. A LOT continues the pressure up until the formation begins accepting fluid. At this point the data falls off a straight line. If continued pumping is done the formation will fracture and take fluid at a higher rate and lower pressure.
8. Once pumping is stopped record pressures for at least 10 minutes to monitor the pressure decline.
9. When pressure is released record the volume of fluid recovered during the flowback.

Next month I will cover kick tolerance calculations as they are tied directly to the LOT/FIT data.

Please share this information with all appropriate members of your organizations

## **AADE COMING EVENTS – Save the date**

2/17/16

### **February Meeting**

Operators Forum    BPXA, CPAI, Hilcorp,

3/16/16

### **March Meeting**

Contractors Forum    Halliburton, Welltec

4/16/16

### **April Meeting**



**Society of Petroleum Engineers**

### **Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – Joint luncheon meeting with AADE - Operator's Forum

Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> – contractor forum

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Distinguished Lecturer Mary Van Domelen, Continental Resources, *Bridging the Gap between Drilling & Completions: Challenges & Solutions in Horizontal Wells*

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Distinguished Lecturer Robert Shelley, StrataGen, *Optimization of Multi-Fractured Horizontal Completions: A New Industry Challenge*

**AADE Meeting News** (Please post in Coffee Rooms)

**Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016

**Speaker:** Various - TBD

**Topic:** Operators Forum

**Time:** 11:30 A.M. – 1:00 pm

**Place:** BPXA, Conference Room A, B & C

**Cost:**  
\$30 for all members before 2/15  
\$35 after 2/15

**Reservations:** <http://www.aade.org/chapters/alaska/>  
**or,**  
<https://www.123signup.com/register?id=ppjzc>

To register for any other event, click on **calendar** in 123 signup and you will see a list of active events.

**2015-2016 Alaska BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Eric Dompeling	264-6107	<a href="mailto:eric.dompeling@solstenxp.com">eric.dompeling@solstenxp.com</a>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> VP- PROGRAMS</b>	Stephen Lauper	952-0445	<a href="mailto:slauper@slb.com">slauper@slb.com</a>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup>VP- MEMBERSHIP</b>	Jacob Thompson	564-5579	<a href="mailto:jacob.thompson@BP.com">jacob.thompson@BP.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Mark Fairbanks	273-4741	<a href="mailto:mfairbanks@slb.com">mfairbanks@slb.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	Gary Eller	263-4172	<a href="mailto:j.gary.eller@conocophillips.com">j.gary.eller@conocophillips.com</a>
<b>NATIONAL REP.</b>	Brandon Barnes	230-7990	<a href="mailto:brandon.barnes@nov.com">brandon.barnes@nov.com</a>

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Lowell Crane (1yr.)	BPXA	564-5111	<a href="mailto:CraneLR@BP.com">CraneLR@BP.com</a>
Jeremy Albright (1yr.)	Welltec	646-9355	<a href="mailto:JAlbright@welltec.com">JAlbright@welltec.com</a>
Mike Yore (1yr.)	Weatherford	743-8612	<a href="mailto:Michael.Yore@weatherford.com">Michael.Yore@weatherford.com</a>
Samir Patil (1yr.)	PRA		<a href="mailto:samir.patil1985@gmail.com">samir.patil1985@gmail.com</a>
Garret Staudinger (2yr)	BPXA	564-4242	<a href="mailto:Garret.Staudinger@bp.com">Garret.Staudinger@bp.com</a>
Dallas Rhodes (2yr)	MI-Swaco	360-7607	<a href="mailto:DallasPaulRhodes@gmail.com">DallasPaulRhodes@gmail.com</a>
Diana Guzman (2 yr)	ConocoPhillips	265-6318	<a href="mailto:Diana.Guzman @conocophillips.com">Diana.Guzman @conocophillips.com</a>
Tom Rawlins (2yr)	ConocoPhillips	267-3464	<a href="mailto:Tom.D.Rawlins@conocophillips.com">Tom.D.Rawlins@conocophillips.com</a>

**Programs & Events Committee**

Stephen Lauper

**Scholarship Committee**

Garret Staudinger

**Membership Committee**

Jacob Thompson

**UAF STUDENT SECTION OFFICERS**

Celie Hull	President	
Ryan Johnson	Secretary	
Grant Cummings	Treasurer	
Shirish L. Patil	Faculty Advisor – UAF	<a href="mailto:slpatil@alaska.edu">slpatil@alaska.edu</a>
James Niedermeyer	Student Chapter Liaison - BP	<a href="mailto:James.Niedermeyer@bp.com">James.Niedermeyer@bp.com</a>