

From: Alberty, Mark W
Sent: Mon Nov 09 13:21:26 2009
To: LeBleu, John B
Subject: Macondo
Importance: Normal

John,

I got your phone message. If the worst case depletion occurs at Macondo, then the expected fracture width is larger than we can treat with StressCage, so the recommendation is to use the max we can and hope the worst case does not materialize. If it does, you will need an alternative treatment such as drilling with fibers.

Once the depleted interval has been successfully drilled, it is no longer necessary to carry that maximum concentration of particles, assuming that we can keep ECD lower than the max ECD encountered while drilling the depleted interval. If you do exceed the ECD used to set the StressCage, then the apparent fracture gradient will immediately revert to its original value and StressCage will not allow you to recover.

I never did take a look to see if the ECD would exceed the fracture gradient in any of the sands below the depleted interval. So without that information (predicted ECD has moved around quite a bit) I cannot tell you what the minimum background concentration needs to be once you have drilled through the depleted interval.

Regards,

Mark

