

**From:** "Trocquet, David" <David.Trocquet@mms.gov>  
**To:** "Woltman, Glenn" <Glenn.Woltman@mms.gov>  
**Cc:** "Fowler, Ronald" <Ronald.Fowler@mms.gov>, "McCarroll, John" <John.McCarroll@mms.gov>, "Moore, Dave" <Dave.Moore3@mms.gov>, "Rinaudo, Marty" <Marty.Rinaudo@mms.gov>, "Conner, George" <George.Conner@mms.gov>, "Patton, Frank" <Frank.Patton@mms.gov>  
**Bcc:**

**Date:** Fri, 21 Apr 2006 11:09:32 AM

**Subject:** RE: question about use of pressure while drilling data for leak-off tests

**Attachments:**

---

Glenn,

We do not have any written policy on FIT's and there is nothing in FOPOTS to my knowledge. Many operators have slight differences in the way that they conduct their FIT's. MMS has basically accepted the reported FIT from the operator without prescribing a specific procedure. When asked the question of MMS accepting a downhole or PWD pressure reading for an FIT, I have always advised that a downhole FIT is fine as long as a downhole mud weight is used to determine the safe margin, i.e. if a downhole FIT is reported, a downhole mud weight must be reported; do not report a downhole FIT with a surface mud weight which would result in an inaccurate safe margin.

Thanks,  
David Trocquet

---

**From:** Woltman, Glenn  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2006 9:45 AM  
**To:** Conner, George  
**Cc:** Fowler, Ronald; McCarroll, John; Trocquet, David; Moore, Dave; Rinaudo, Marty  
**Subject:** RE: question about use of pressure while drilling data for leak-off tests

Mike,

I did not know about this until now, but we will discuss if drilling engineers have any thoughts on this issue.

Glenn Woltman

---

**From:** Conner, George  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2006 9:03 AM  
**To:** Woltman, Glenn; Conner, George  
**Subject:** FW: question about use of pressure while drilling data for leak-off tests

Has a policy been written and entered into FOPOTS?

**MIKE CONNER**  
**MMS-TAOS, CHIEF**  
**PHONE: 281-873-1836**  
**FAX: 281-873-1976**  
**E-MAIL: GEORGE.CONNER@MMS.GOV**



**From:** Herbst, Lars  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2005 6:34 PM  
**To:** 'David.Boucher@bakerhughes.com'  
**Cc:** Conner, George; Labiche, Lance; Trahan, Joseph Dr.  
**Subject:** FW: question about use of pressure while drilling data for leak-off tests

I have looked into your question with our drilling engineers in our various district offices. The consensus was that the question has not really been asked before. In general I do not believe any had a problem with the use of mwd pressures, but I think we would need some additional information presented to us. This can be through one of our quarterly drilling engineers meetings or if an answer is needed more urgently we can conduct a meeting with a few of the drilling engineers.

Some of the points of interest are:

- Show that the MWD tool provides accurate pressure data
- Show the procedure by which this data / test will be transmitted to the drill floor and recorded in the driller's log
- Show the conversion from downhole measurements to a drilling procedure that maintains a safe drilling margin
- Show any drilling procedures and hole-behavior observations that will be changed
- Show that the rig crew has been trained in the procedure.

You mentioned that the North Sea has addressed this. If you can share that it would assist us on this issue. Please contact Mike Conner [REDACTED] of our Technical Assessment Office to provide additional information or schedule a meeting.

*Lars Herbst*

*Field Operations*

*Deputy Regional Supervisor for District Operations*

*Ph. (504)-736-2507*

*Fax (504)-736-2426*

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

**From:** Trahan, Joseph Dr.  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2005 1:08 PM  
**To:** Herbst, Lars  
**Subject:** FW: question about use of pressure while drilling data for leak-off tests

**Lars,**

**Can ya'll answer this question?**

**Thank You.**

**Joe**

Dr. Joe Trahan, APR, Fellow, PRSA  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70123-2394  
(504) 736-2595  
F: (504) 736-2432  
[Dr.Joseph.Trahan@mms.gov](mailto:Dr.Joseph.Trahan@mms.gov)

**"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."**

**Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)**

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

**From:** Boucher, David W. [mailto:David.Boucher@bakerhughes.com]

**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2005 12:48 PM

**To:** dr.joseph.trahan@mms.gov

**Subject:** question about use of pressure while drilling data for leak-off tests

Dr Trahan

I work for Baker Hughes INTEQ in the MWD / LWD group. Over the last several years the question of whether it is acceptable to use the minimum and maximum pressures obtained by the MWD tools during leak-off tests is allowed as opposed to using the cementer's pressure reading and the mud weight as reported on the mud report. I have looked on several websites via the google.com search engine and found some recommended procedures and a Norwegian process but nothing specific to MMS controlled areas (i.e. the Gulf of Mexico) about what numbers to use and how to obtain them.

Is there a MMS required procedure for running a LOT and a requirement as to what numbers to use?

Thank you for your assistance.

David Boucher

