INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

DRLLING HYDRUALICS

EE052-3-3-DRH

APU4F2408PE

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: HYDRAULICS ANALYSIS USING GAS DRILLING SYSTEMS FOR EFFICIENT HOLE CLEANING.

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DATE: 2nd MAY 2025.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Complexity in drilling operations has significantly increased with the need to drill unconventional and high-risk wells, which are advancing gas drilling technology. In contrast to traditional liquid-based applications, gas drilling carries significant advantages such as lower hydrostatic pressure, reduced formation damage, and improved rate of penetration. One of the most significant challenges in gas drilling, however, is the effective hole cleaning, primarily determined by wellbore hydraulics.

This paper provides the design and optimization technique for a gas drilling system to ensure hydraulic performance for the effective removal of drilled cuttings. The system should result in closer pressure control, better cuttings transport efficiency and operational safety. The study area includes defining well parameters, establishing the mud weight window, choosing the right casing and bit sizes, the well trajectory, as well as calculating flow rates and pressure distributions at various depths.

The analysis is done based on key concepts of gas dynamics, with minimum requirements for cuttings transport being met with respect to velocity and kinetic energy. The work also proposes new concepts for real-time monitoring, optimization of nozzle designs, and gas injection techniques that seek to improve overall efficiency and safety in drilling.

The following sections of this report discuss methods, analytical models, and computation procedures used. An assessment of the results in terms of feasibility and field applicability is made at the end of this report, with many recommendations stressing the importance of merging theoretical understanding with field engineering practice.

2.0 Contour Level Interpretation

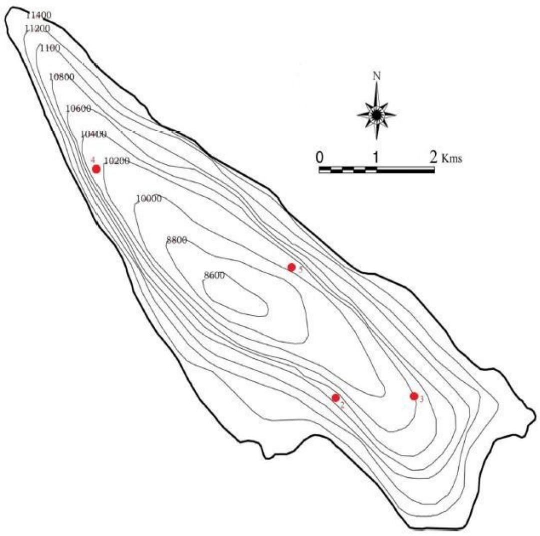

Figure 1: Reservoir Layer Map

The contour map displays depth intervals ranging from 8,600 ft to 11,400 ft, with red markers indicating potential drilling sites. These red dots are positioned close to specific contour lines, which help us approximate the surface elevation at each proposed well location:

- **Site A** is near the 10,200 ft contour.
- **Site B** is near the 10,000 ft contour.
- **Site C** is located around the 8,800 ft contour.

2.1 Depth-Based Pressure Calculation

To evaluate the pressure at each site, we apply the hydrostatic pressure formula:

P = 0.052 X Mud Weight (ppg) X Depth (ft)

Using a baseline mud weight of **12 ppg**, the pressures are computed as follows:

- **Site A (10,200 ft)**:

$P = 0.052 \times 12 \times 10200 = 6364.8$ psi

- **Site B (10,000 ft)**:

  $P = 0.052 \times 12 \times 10000 = 6240$ psi

- **Site C (8,800 ft)**:

  $P = 0.052 \times 12 \times 8800 = 5491.2$ psi

These values provide initial estimates of the downhole pressure for each proposed well location.

2.2 Evaluation of Well Locations

- **Site A (10,200 ft)** exhibits the **highest pressure**, ideal for deeper targets but may present narrow mud weight windows and higher risk of formation damage.
- **Site B (10,000 ft)** offers a **moderate pressure environment**, potentially making it a more controlled and safer option for well placement.
- **Site C (8,800 ft)** experiences the **lowest pressure**, which could simplify early drilling stages but would demand **higher annular velocities** to effectively lift cuttings to the surface.

This analysis provides a basis for selecting optimal well locations based on depth, pressure, and operational considerations.

3.0 Mud Window Determination Using the Pressure Profile

The objective is to define a mud weight window for effective drilling without fracturing the formation or encountering kicks.

3.1 Interpret the Pressure Profile Chart

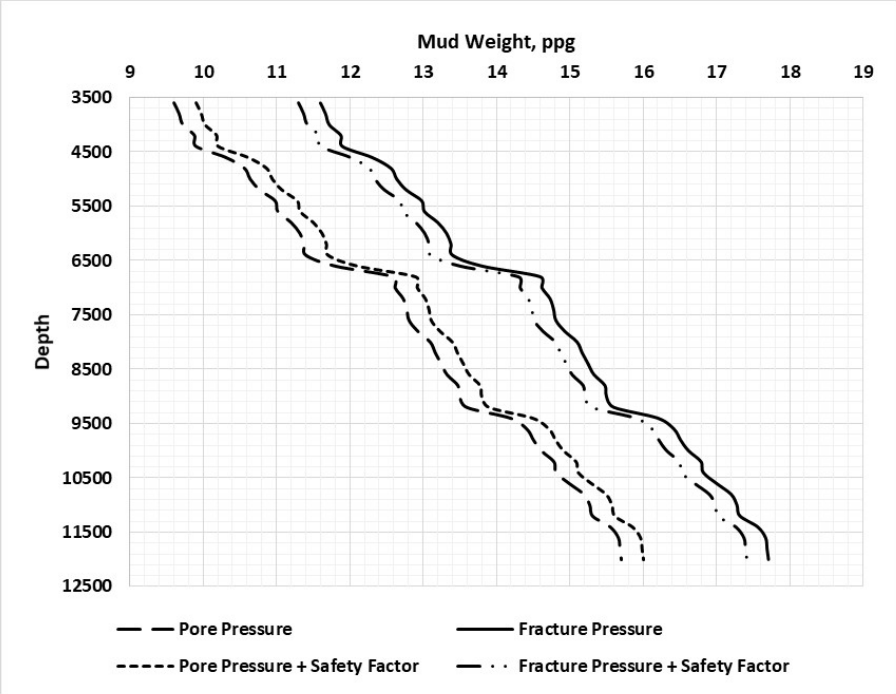

Figure 2: Pressure Profile

3.1 Interpretation of Pressure Chart

The supplied pressure chart shows three main parameters important for drilling operations:

- The pore pressure is represented by the solid curve and shows the pressure in the formation at different depths.
- Fracture pressure is the solid curve that indicates the pressure level at which the formation can be expected to fracture.
- The safety margins (the dashed ones), signifying the boundaries of operations, represent a certain distance above the pore pressure and below the fracture pressure level for ensuring wellbore stability.

The mud weight window lies within that range of pressure between the upper limit of the pore pressure and the lower one for the fracture pressure. Presence of mud weight outside this range will lead to various concerns such as deformity of formation through fracturing or loss of well control

3.2 Determining Mud Window at Various Depths

From the pressure chart, we extract the following approximate values:

- **At 3,500 ft:**
  - *Pore Pressure:* ~10 ppg
  - *Fracture Pressure:* ~16 ppg
- **At 6,500 ft:**
  - *Pore Pressure:* ~12.5 ppg
  - *Fracture Pressure:* ~17 ppg
- **At 10,500 ft:**
  - *Pore Pressure:* ~14.5 ppg
  - *Fracture Pressure:* ~18.5 ppg

Using interpolation from these data points, we determine the estimated mud weight windows for each proposed well:

- **Well 1 (10,200 ft):**
  - Pore Pressure ≈ 14.3 ppg
  - Fracture Pressure ≈ 18.3 ppg
  - **Mud Window:** *14.3 – 18.3 ppg*
- **Well 2 (10,000 ft):**
  - Pore Pressure ≈ 13.8 ppg
  - Fracture Pressure ≈ 18.0 ppg
  - **Mud Window:** *13.8 – 18.0 ppg*
- **Well 3 (8,800 ft):**
  - Pore Pressure ≈ 12.5 ppg
  - Fracture Pressure ≈ 17.0 ppg
  - **Mud Window:** *12.5 – 17.0 ppg*

These mud windows highlight a direct relationship between depth and pressure: as depth increases, both pore and fracture pressures rise, necessitating higher mud weights to maintain safe drilling conditions without compromising the formation.

3.3 Implications for Gas Drilling

Unlike conventional liquid drilling methods, gas drilling bottoms the well at a considerably reduced effective mud weight and this is not to speak of the reduced bottomhole pressure achieved. The resulting narrow mud weight window under which one must be accurate in order to prevent an unstable formation or fracture presents an even greater importance.

Careful engineering is necessary, both in air, nitrogen, or gas mixtures as circulating media, to stay within these pressure limits. Owing to the compressible nature of gases, flow rates and annular velocities must be adjusted accordingly during drilling operation to achieve bottom hole pressure that suffices. However, such circulation has to attain cutting removal along the wellbore, which can't allow any accumulation or blockage.

To efficiently control variables for stable and efficient gas drilling in pressure-sensitive formations, it must be carried out on a highly economic basis.

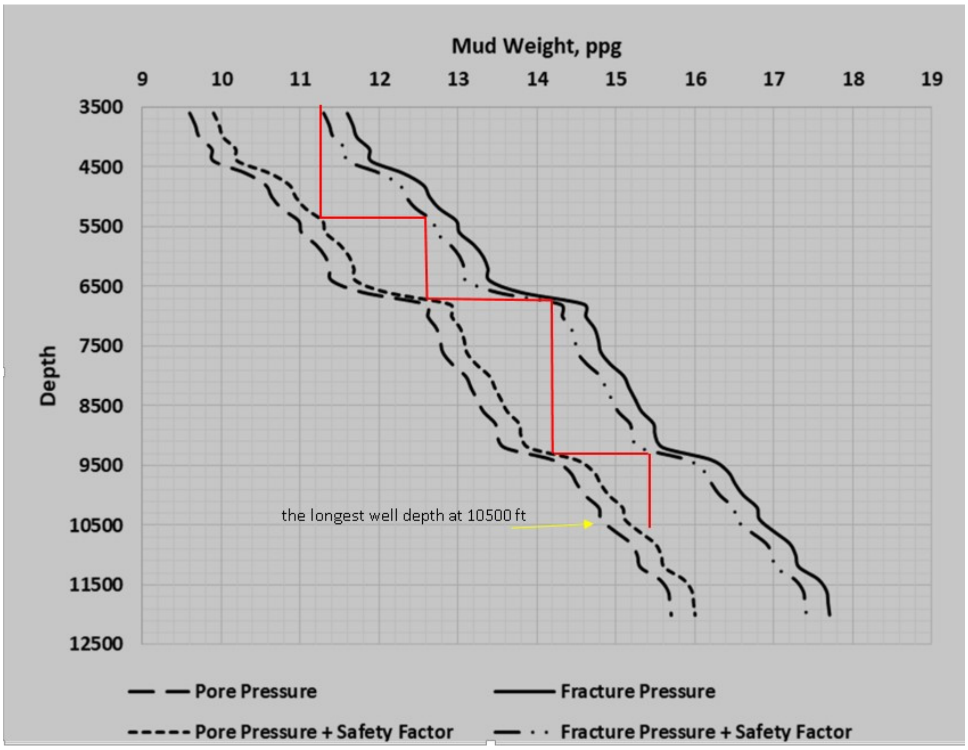

Figure 3: MUD WINDOW

The pressure profile chart graphically depicts the safe window for drilling, also known as the mud window. This gray shaded area is between the modified pore pressure lines and fracture pressure curves, wherein safety margins are incorporated. Keeping mud weight in this window is crucial to well control issues and damage to the formations during drilling.

4.0 Selection of Casing and Bit Size:

Accurate casing and bit size selection is very important for safe and efficient drilling, especially concerning depth intervals and pressure considerations. While the casing has to withstand the formation pressures, it should also allow for the passage of the bit and optimal annular flow for gas drilling purposes.

4.1 Establishing Depth Intervals for Casing

The well is broken down into three distinct depths where casing is installed:

- Surface Casing: From surface to ~3000 ft
- Intermediate Casing: From 3000 ft to ~8800 ft
- Production Casing: From 8800 ft to ~10200 ft

Establishing the casing depth intervals is determined by the formation changes, pressure zones, and mechanical requirements.

4.2 Choosing the Appropriate Size of Casing

These casing strings were chosen to correspond with the industry standard and operational requirements:

- Surface Casing: 13 3/8 inches
- Stabilizes shallow formations and supports the wellhead.
- Intermediate Casing: 9 5/8 inches
- Acts in isolation to prevent it from entering an unstable zone or high-pressure zone.
- Production Casing: 7 inches

- Reaches total depth and serves as the final conduit for production.

4.3 Bit Size Selection

To perform the casing installation, the drill bit, which is necessary for use, should be larger than the casing it must factor:

- 13 3/8-inch casing → 17 1/2-inch bit
- 9 5/8-inch casing → 12 1/4-inch bit
- 7-inch casing → 8 1/2-inch bit

This allows enough clearance for installation purposes and for future cement casing.

4.4 Justification Based on Mud Window and Depth

With the increase in depth, the formation pressure assumes higher values, which in turn reduces the mud window for casing and drill collars to withstand wellbore integrity. The casing diameters selected can withstand high-pressure zones efficiently while the size of the bits is based on the consideration of drilling practices and annular space required for gases to flow (Rabia, 2001).

5.0 Well Trajectory Design

The design of the well trajectory includes the entire process of planning the path the borehole will follow from the surface down to the target reservoir, subservient to geological structure, directional requirements, and operational efficiency (Rabia, 2001).

Identifying Well Type and Objectives

Moderately deviated directional well is selected based on depth and formation layout. This is efficient for a wellbore accessing the target compared to a vertical well while enforcing structural and hydraulic constraints.

5.1 Key Parameters in Trajectory Planning

KOP-Kick-Off Point; A location set at 2500 ft, wherein a deviation starts
BUR-Build-Up Rate; 2° per 100 ft is considered a conservative controlled rate of deviation.
Inclination and Azimuth; Inclination means an angle against vertical, wherein azimuth indicates the direction in compass.
TD-Total Depth; The approximate final target depth is 10,200 ft.

5.2 The Design of the Trajectory

It comprises three sections:

- From surface to 2500 ft (KOP), Vertical Section.
- Build-Up Section: Gradual deviation from 2500 ft using the set BUR.
- Hold Section: Hold the final inclination until 10200 ft TD.

It is meant to ensure that the trajectory maintains a smooth and steady course to reach the target formation and minimize stress on the drill string.

5.3 Well Path Calculation Method

Well path calculation method involves known bottom up and kick off point:

- Building section:

Calculate the depth and angle realized over the length of curvilinear section.

- Hold section:

Computes horizontal displacement based on the maintained angle for the residual depth to TD.

These are necessary calculations to get accurate preparations for the trajectory and the horizontal reach.

5.4 Trajectory Sketch (Optional)

This visual sketch can show:

- Vertical segment from 0 to 2500 ft,
- Build section with an increasing gradual angle,
- Hold section extending to a reservoir at 10,200 ft.

It gives a clear pictorial understanding of the well's directional profile.

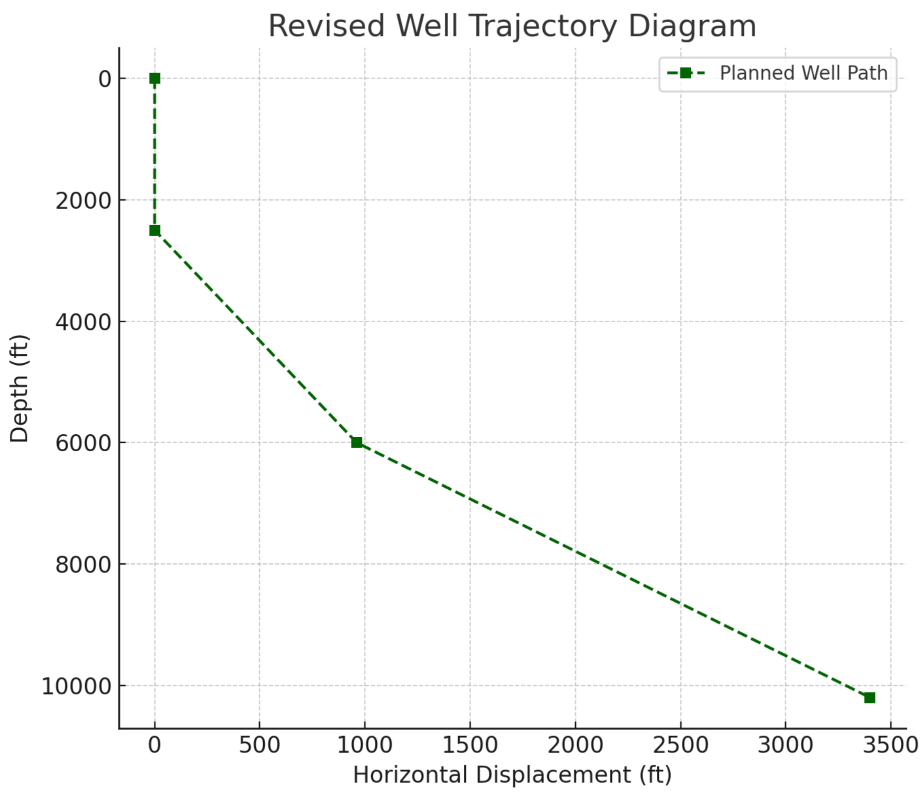

Figure 4: WELL TRAJECTORY DIAGRAM

5.6 Refined Trajectory Calculation

The well path consists of three segments: the **vertical**, **build**, and **hold** sections. Each is analysed based on its depth interval, inclination, and horizontal deviation.

Design Parameters:

- Kick-Off Point (KOP): 2500 ft
- Build-Up Rate (BUR): 2° per 100 ft
- Final Inclination: 30°
- Total Depth (TD): 10,200 ft

1. Vertical Segment (0 – 2500 ft)

The wellbore follows a vertical path from the surface down to the kick-off point.

- Depth Interval: 0 to 2500 ft
- Inclination: 0°
- Horizontal Displacement: 0 ft

2. Build Section (2500 – 4000 ft)

The deviation begins at 2500 ft, increasing inclination at a steady rate until it reaches 30° at 4000 ft.

- Build Length = 30/ 2/100ft = 1500

  Horizontal Displacement ≈ R x sin(theta) = 2864.8 x sin(30) =1432.4ft

- Vertical Drop during build: R x (1 - cos(30)) = 382.7ft

3. Hold Section (4000 – 10,200 ft)

Once the desired inclination is reached, the well continues on this path to total depth.

- Hold Length = 6200 ft

- Horizontal Displacement ≈ 6200 x tan(30) = 577.4ft

Total Horizontal Displacement

1432.4ft (Build) + 3577.4ft (Hold) =5009.8ft

5.7 Summary of Trajectory

Table 1: summary of trajectory

SECTION	DEPTH RANGE ft	INCLINATION	Horizontal Displacement (ft)
Vertical	0-2500	0	0
Build	2500-4000	0 TO 30	=1432
Hold	4000-10200	30 CONSTANT	=3577
Total	0-10200	-	= 5010 ft

6.0 Calculations

6.1 Flow Rate Calculations for Each Casing Section

This section estimates the flow rate, velocity, and kinetic energy required for efficient hole cleaning during gas drilling, divided across three casing sections: surface, intermediate, and production.

Assumed Parameters:

- **Gas Type:** Air
- **Gas Density at Surface Conditions:** 0.076 lb/ft^3
- **Viscosity of Air:** 0.018 cP

- **Compressor Discharge Pressure:** 300 psi (assumed)
- **Temperature:** 150°F
- **Casing Diameters:**
    - Surface: 13 3/8 inches
    - Intermediate: 9 5/8 inches
    - Production: 7 inches

6.1.1 Calculations by Casing Section

1. Surface Casing (13 3/8" outer, 5" inner):

- Annular Area = 0.994 ft^2
- Flow Rate = 800 ft^3/min = 13.33 ft^3/s
- Velocity = 13.33 / 0.994 = **13.41 ft/s**
- KE = ½ × 0.076 × $(13.41)^2$ = **6.83 lb/ft**

2. Intermediate Casing (9 5/8" outer, 4" inner):

- Annular Area = 0.722 ft^2
- Flow Rate = 600 ft^3/min = 10.00 ft^3/s
- Velocity = 10.00 / 0.722 = **13.85 ft/s**
- KE = ½ × 0.076 × $(13.85)^2$ = **7.27 lb/ft²**

3. Production Casing (7" outer, 3.5" inner):

- Annular Area = 0.367 ft^2
- Flow Rate = 500 ft^3/min = 8.33 ft^3/s
- Velocity = 8.33 / 0.367 = **22.70 ft/s**
- KE = ½ × 0.076 × $(22.70)^2$ = **19.54 lb/ft²**

Table 2: Summary of Flow Rate Calculations

Casing selection	Flow Rate (ft^3/min)	Velocity (ft/s)	Kinetic Energy (lb/ft^2)
Surface Casing	800	13.41	6.83

Intermediate Casing	600	13.85	7.27
Production Casing	500	22.70	19.54

6.2 Pressure Calculations at Key Trajectory Sections

We now calculate the pressures at critical points along the refined well trajectory path:

Trajectory Sections:

1. Vertical Section (0–2500 ft)
2. Build-Up Section (2500–4000 ft)
3. Hold Section (4000–10200 ft)

Assumptions:

- **Gas Type:** Air
- **Gas Density at Depth:** 0.2 lb/ft³ (adjusted)
- **Friction Factor:** 0.02
- **Compressor Discharge Pressure:** 300 psi
- **Trajectory Depths and Lengths:**
    - Vertical = 2500 ft
    - Build = 1500 ft
    - Hold = 6200 ft

1. Vertical Section (0–2500 ft):

- Hydrostatic Pressure: 111.72 psi
- Frictional Loss: 0.35 psi
- **Total Pressure:** 412.07 psi

2. Build Section (2500–4000 ft):

- Hydrostatic Pressure: 67.03 psi
- Frictional Loss: 0.43 psi
- **Total Pressure:** 367.46 psi

3. Hold Section (4000–10200 ft):

- Hydrostatic Pressure: 277.05 psi
- Frictional Loss: 4.10 psi
- **Total Pressure:** 581.15 psi

Total Bottomhole Pressure: 760.68 psi

Table 3: summary of pressure calculations

Well Section	Depth Interval (ft)	Hydrostatic Pressure (psi)	Frictional Loss (psi)	Compressor Discharge Pressure (psi)	Total Pressure (psi)
Vertical Section	0-2500	111.72	0.35	300	412.07
Build Section	2500-4000	67.03	0.43	300	367.46
Hold Section (Slant)	4000-10200	277.05	4.10	300	581.15
Total Bottomhole Pressure	0-10200	455.80	4.88	300	760.68

7.0 Relatable Improvements

There are numerous innovations and futuristic strategies employed in gas drilling, especially concerning hole cleaning and stabilization of downhole conditions, to enhance overall performance in gas drilling operation. Among the best aforementioned improvements is the introduction of multi-stage compressors capable of producing high pressures and a more constant gas flow rate throughout the well, well suited for deeper wells that really need continuous flow. Improving cuttings removal efficiency by customizing gas flow into the different wellbore sections instead of uniform gas injection all through the well harms stable gas flow rate maintenance, and such parts as the build and hold sections collect more solids mainly due to their configuration. Another improvement is in the bit nozzle configurations by having interchangeable nozzles that are tailored according to specific downhole needs and also having geometries that induce vortex to create velocity and energy of gas flow in order to improve cuttings transport.

There are real-time monitoring systems that, in collaboration with adaptive computational flow models, can be used to actively control gas injection and nozzle performance according to immediate downhole feedback, thus achieving maximum hydraulic performance under changing drilling conditions. In addition to these technical controls, the trajectory of the well itself can be optimized through simulation-based tools that can predict how curvature and deviation angles will affect pressures and solids transport, thus facilitating more efficient well planning. Foam or mist drilling fluids can give an even lower hydrostatic pressure while improving the cuttings-carrying ability of the fluid, whereas a two-phase gas-liquid system can provide even more flexibility in the management of downhole pressures and cleaning in complex formations. Together, these improvements provide a complete pathway for refining gas drilling with returns as early as next week and for years hence.

8.0 Discussion

The study presented was aimed at designing and analysing a gas-drilling system focusing on optimizing the cleaning of holes and exercise control on the hydraulic parameters of prime importance throughout different segments of the well. It all started with the interpretation of drilling data, selection of appropriate casing and bit dimensions, and trajectory planning that were tailored to allow minimization of pressure losses and support structural integrity. On top of that, flow rate and pressure calculations were carried out in each and every segment of the well, with regard to theoretical requirements and practical constraints, while addressing any concerns of cuttings transport above minimum velocity thresholds and within safe operating pressures. The trajectory was chosen to traverse in a way that balances vertical depth and horizontal displacement with an aim to reduce risks inherent with sharp build-up angles or uncontrolled transitions that may help sustain more constant hydraulic performance. Hydraulic performance analyses indeed showed that the calculated gas velocities and kinetic energy were sufficient for lifting and transporting solids from the wellbore, which is particularly critical for gas drilling with its minimum fluid-density requirements.

The mud window evaluation also confirmed that the chosen pressures and flow regimes remained within safe limits, preventing both formation fracturing and inflow risks, while the selected bit and casing diameters were able to provide appropriate structural support at different depths. Given the alignment of the assumed parameters, such as gas properties and flow conditions, with those of standard industry values and engineering literature, validity can be assured by relying on such results; in the end, however, it is given that further accurate field data would demand converting such results to real-world drilling operations. The design process met some challenges, mainly consideration for the high compressibility of gas and cuttings transport performance in varied geometry and estimates for pressure losses with no detailed formation data available. Such challenges are addressed through conservative design choices, such as friction values, safety margins in pressure models, and nozzle configurations aimed at achieving maximum velocity and flow concentration closer to the bit. Such analysis, however, remained tied to hydraulic theory and fluid dynamics; specifically in terms of annular velocity models, energy losses, and gas compressibility, limitations notwithstanding.

The postulated idea that through flow rate control, nozzle performance, and pressure management effective hole-cleaning operations may be performed was strongly corroborated by the results; the proposed improvements-real-time monitoring systems, advanced compression technology, and gas-liquid flow systems-further substantiate the more general concept that, through targeted engineering development and strategic planning, gas drilling is enhanced in efficiency.

9.0 Conclusion

This submission reflects the entirety of the design process and analysis of a gas-based drilling system, primarily focusing on efficient hole cleaning and hydraulic safety throughout the application. Every aspect-from data analysis and mud window evaluation to trajectory design, equipment selection, and pressure calculations-has been designed with consideration for use in the actual field. The results indicated that gas drilling could also exhibit good cuttings transport capabilities under well-controlled flow rates, an optimized nozzle design, while still ensuring downhole stability. The trajectory design indicated that the target reservoir could be reached without introducing excessive curvature or instability, and the calculated gas velocities and pressures confirmed that the system could operate within the expected performance thresholds.

Due to a shortage of specific field data, certain necessary assumptions were made, but each one was still based on best practice and validated engineering models so that the design would truly be pragmatic and technically sound. Actual deployment would require additional real-time monitoring and adjustments, but the analysis has thus provided a strong conceptual basis for gas drilling operations. To summarize, together the optimized design and upgrades constitute a solution that is pragmatic and theoretically strong and responds to modern drilling objectives, thus affirming that sound planning based on established principles is vital to effect operational success within complex drilling environments.

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