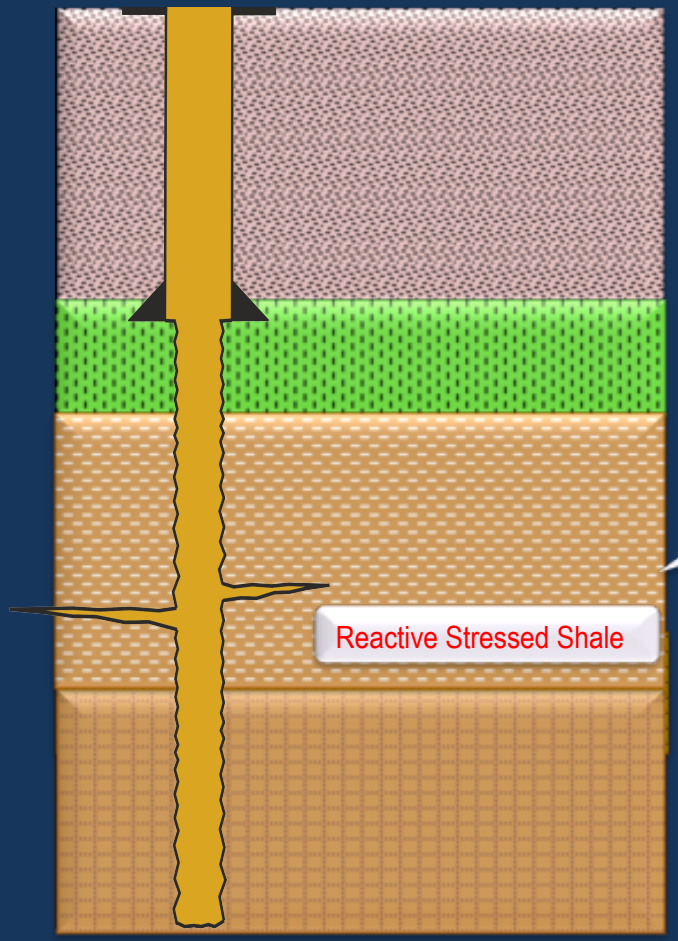
FRACSEAL™

CASE HISTORY

No. 1607

FRACSEAL STABILIZES PROBLEMATIC SHALE FORMATIONS - Romania



The Challenge

The onshore Tintea field in Romania is notorious when it comes to drilling shale intervals of **Pontian and Meotian formations**. Hole instability in these stressed shales poses a major problem and has resulted in **several stuck pipe and lost BHAs** over the years. Selection of drilling fluid, either water based mud or synthetic oil based mud, **does not help to resolve the situation** as similar problems have been encountered using either mud system.

The Action

Recently, **a drilling mud additive, used successfully for promoting hole stability in wells drilled in the North Sea was proposed** to be used in the Tintea field. This additive which is **primarily a borehole stabilizing and lost circulation material** consisting of **micronized organic cellulose fibers** also helps to stabilize the stressed shale formations where micro-fractures exist by effectively bridging them off.

The Result

Hole remained stable without any excessive drag, over-pull, or stuck tendencies. Following this successful field trial, **it is now the product of choice** whenever hole stability issues are encountered in Tintea field. **It was used in two subsequent wells to the trial well and delivered the same result**. The Company's drilling fluids specialists working closely with the Service Providers **have perfected the combination of using these fibers together with calcium carbonat**e in the appropriate concentration and have delivered wells within time and budget.

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Loss Control Experts

PT OBM DRILCHEM, Dipo Business Center, 7th Floor, Suite 7E, Jl Gatot Subroto Kav 50-52, Jakarta 10260
TEL. +62 21 3005 1341, FAX: + 62 21 3005 1344; email: drilchem@indo.net.id, website: www.drilchem.com