

UBO Committee develops guidelines, reports

**Jon Gent, BP; Chairman, IADC
Underbalanced Operations Committee**

THE IADC UNDERBALANCED operations (UBO) committee has taken as its mission "to promote the safe and efficient execution of underbalanced operations worldwide". We are a diverse group of operators, contractors, and service companies dedicated to improving safety for the man on the rig.

It is the committee members' belief that we have a moral obligation to share our learning regarding safety and a responsibility to the industry as a whole to develop and share best practice in regards to health and safety. The committee also promotes underbalanced drilling as a method to enhance production and increase economic reserves.

Thus far, we have developed the format and curriculum guide for underbalanced WellCAP training. The committee has also prepared the IADC Underbalanced Tour Report. To provide the industry with a common set of terms for UBO, we have set forth a glossary unifying production, drilling and, where appropriate, pipeline terminology.

Most recently, the committee approved and released a Rig Pass safety-orientation accreditation program for underbalanced operations.

Our current projects include development of HSE and fluid-selection guidelines for underbalanced operations.

The most ambitious projects are yet to come. We recently reached an understanding in principle with API under which the UBO Committee will draft UBO supplements for existing API spec-

ifications. It is envisioned that these supplements will ultimately be incorporated into the appropriate API standards. Rotating control heads and chokes used in UBD are just 2 examples of the equipment which will be addressed. The committee is seeking additional help in this

task from all segments of the oilfield, and particularly from manufacturers.

The UBO Committee meets quarterly. Visit the website at <http://www.iadc.org/committees/underbalanced/index.html>. ■

IADC/SPE plan UB conf in 2003

The IADC/SPE Underbalanced Technology Conference is scheduled for 2003 in The Woodlands, Texas. **Bruce Selby** with Shell is the conference Chairman.

The event will explore underbalanced technology, emphasizing reserve additions, enhancement of well productivity, reduction of formation damage and advances in drilling, logging and completion techniques and practices. ■