

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT PROFORMA

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INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:

Note to Well Operators concerning the use of BOPs configured with annular preventer in the lower BOP stack and the implications of this configuration on capping stack deployment

ALERT:

Following a recent review of a safety case for High Pressure High Temperature (HPHT) operations¹, it has come to our attention that certain Blow Out Preventers (BOP), rated to 15,000psi, have an annular preventer within the lower BOP stack rated to 10,000psi. As outlined below, this may have implications for deployment of any capping stack in a well blow out scenario where the pressures at the BOP are greater than 10,000psi.

API recommended practice for capping stacks, document API RP17W, states that the primary connection point used for the development of capping stack plans is the HP mandrel on the lower BOP, after removing the Lower Marine Riser Package (LMRP). Contingency attachment points are (i) the wellhead after removal of the lower BOP and (ii) the riser adaptor (typically 6,000psi or less) after removal of the riser joint.

In an HPHT blowout where the annular preventer is located in the lower BOP stack, the only position tested to 15,000psi that can be considered for the capping stack is the first contingency attachment point i.e. the wellhead connector after removal of the lower BOP.

OSDR would draw your attention to this scenario which you must consider in your response strategies within your Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) or Temporary Operations OPEP (TOOPEP).

¹OGUK's Guidelines for High Pressure, High Temperature Wells (October 2016) defines high temperature as when the undisturbed bottom hole temperature is greater than 149°C (300°F) and high pressure as when either the pore pressure of any porous formation to be drilled exceeds 0.8 psi/ft (EMW 1.85 SG, 15.4 ppg) or which requires deployment of pressure control equipment with a rated working pressure in excess of 690 bar (10,000psi).

Offshore Safety Directive Regulator



Further Information

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