Plant Based Drilling Fluid Uses Carbon Dating as a Test for Renewable Content

Rapid Energy Services' Quantum EF plant-based drilling fluid sets a new standard in environmental performance. The innovative Quantum EF drilling fluid is based upon plant-derived ingredients, eliminating the need for petroleum solvents and additives in drilling muds. At the same time, Quantum EF has proven to outperform oil-based drilling muds in many ways. Quantum EF is green chemistry that works.

(Vocus) February 11, 2010 -- With so many drilling fluids claiming to be green, how can oil & gas exploration companies wade through the claims? Equally important, how do they find a environmentally safe fluid that also performs in the field? Finding green chemistry that works can be challenging. Rapid Energy Services is working to set a new environmental standard with its Quantum EF plant-based drilling fluid.

In the new shale plays, exploration companies and environmental regulators are challenged to qualify environmentally safe drilling fluids for field application. Rapid's Quantum EF is based upon plant-derived ingredients, making it safe for rig workers and for the environment.

How do operators and regulators tell an environmentally acceptable fluid from those only reported to be environmentally safe? Talk is cheap while carbon dating is real science. By testing drilling fluids using established carbon dating procedures, operators and regulators can quickly distinguish products based upon renewable, plant-derived ingredients from those produced with petroleum ingredients. Quantum EF has a 90 percent renewable carbon content.

Carbon dating has been used for many years in categorizing fossils. Today, the USDA uses an ASTM D6866 method to qualify products into what it terms "biopreferred" categories, where the percent renewable carbon is compared to organic fossil carbon. This testing forms a benchmark for the "biopreferred" program, where certain products are recognized by their renewable carbon content. Carbon dating quantifies the presence of fossil derived (petroleum) oils and chemical ingredients in drilling fluids. Plant-based fluids will demonstrate much greater environmental biodegradability. Carbon dating uses radioisotope carbon-14 to determine the age of carbonaceous material. If a drilling fluid contains a petroleum-derived oil such as diesel, mineral oil, synthetic hydrocarbons, and oil-derived chemical ingredients, they will be easily uncovered by this method. The typical turnaround for this lab procedure is 4 to 7 days and only requires 1 to 2 cc's of fluid to obtain results.

David Trahan, President, CTO of Rapid Energy Services states, "Rapid uses the carbon dating method to provide its customers with the assurance that its drilling fluids and drilling fluid residuals are based upon renewable, and as equally important, biodegradable carbon."

About Rapid Energy Services, L.P.
?Rapid Energy Services, L.P. is a technology company focused on the development and sale of performance products for use in oil and gas exploration. The new Quantum EF plant-based drilling fluid has proven to be effective in field applications in North American shale plays. In lab and field testing, the residual drilling fluid that remains on drill cuttings has proven to be environmentally beneficial to soil.

For information about Quantum EF plant based drilling fluids, contact Rapid Energy Services (337) 291-2778. www.rapidenergyservices.com.

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