

Another record for Eclipse Resources: AES VERT[†] drills 20,362' lateral in under six days to total depth at 28,775'



CHALLENGES

Drill the 20,000' horizontal section trouble-free

Provide efficient rates of penetration while cleaning the hole of cuttings

Insure clean trips to pull out of the hole and run casing



SOLUTION

AES VERT diesel-based invert emulsion drilling fluid with optimized properties for hole cleaning

Comprehensive drilling fluids maintenance program to complement best drilling practices



RESULTS

- The well reached total depth at 28,775' over 13 days from spud to total depth
- There were no reported issues pulling out of the hole or running casing, confirming a clean, quality wellbore
- AES VERT continues to deliver record-setting wells



OVERVIEW

Eclipse Resources' focus on maximizing drilling efficiency includes record-setting laterals to access reservoirs in condensate-bearing Utica formations. Having already drilled several laterals beyond 19,000 feet, the drilling program sought reach beyond the 20,000 foot mark.

The drilling fluids program was written to optimize system properties along with best drilling practices for hole cleaning, including optimized string design for improved hydraulics. AES VERT properties were monitored throughout the drilling process to deliver a clean hole with no issues pulling out or running in with casing to total depth at 28,775. From spud to total depth, the entire well was drilled and cemented in 13 days with the lateral requiring only 5.65 days to drill.



The record-setting Mercury B 5H well experienced trouble-free drilling using AES VERT for effective hole cleaning, resulting in trouble-free trips and casing runs.

DETAILS

On the Mercury B 5H well, surface casing was pre-set. The AES VERT system was prepared at the liquid mud plant and sent to location. The system was conditioned while drilling, with gradual weight up as the curve was built. After building the curve assembly, the horizontal section commenced.

Drilling fluid density was adjusted with barite and diesel to maintain properties and dilute low gravity solids while running solids control equipment in barite recovery mode. Emulsion stability and oil-wetting was maintained through additions of ABS MUL[†] and AES WA II[†].





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