

Cimarex Energy Co. of Colorado – Closed-Loop System Design Plan

Equipment List

- Primary Shakers
- Mud Cleaner – hydro-cyclones
- 1 or 2 Centrifuges (depending on well depth)
- De-watering system with pH adjustment, coagulant mixing and dosing, and polymer mixing and dosing (may not be necessary for shallower wells)
- Drying Augur
- Sump Drying Augur
- Sump
- Cuttings Boxes
- Reserve Fluids Tank Farm
- Wire Mesh Trash Enclosure (spent motor oils kept in separate containers and later sent to approved landfill)

Operation and Maintenance

The Cimarex Zero Discharge system is designed to maintain drill solids at or below 5%. The equipment is arranged to progressively remove solids from the largest to the smallest size. Drilling fluids can thus be reused and savings is realized on mud and disposal costs. Dewatering may be required with the centrifuges to insure removal of ultra fine solids.

The drilling location is constructed to allow storm water to flow to a central sump normally the cellar. This ensures no contamination leaves the drilling pad in the event of a spill. Storm water is reused in the mud system or stored in a reserve fluid tank farm until it can be reused. All lubricants, oils, or chemicals are removed immediately from the ground to prevent the contamination of storm water. An oil trap is normally installed on the sump if an oil spill occurs during a storm.

A tank farm is utilized to store drilling fluids including fresh water and brine fluids. The tank farm is constructed on a 20 ml plastic lined, bermed pad to prevent the contamination of the drilling site during a spill. Fluids from other sites may be stored in these tanks for processing by the solids control equipment and reused in the mud system. At the end of the well the fluids are transported from the tank farm to an adjoining well or to the next well for the rig.

These closed loop operations can be monitored by our service technicians. Daily logs are maintained to ensure optimal equipment operation and maintenance. Screen and chemical use is logged to maintain inventory control. Fluid properties are monitored and recorded and drilling mud volumes are accounted for in the mud storage farm. This data is kept for end of well review to insure performance goals are met. Lessons learned are logged and used to help with continuous improvement.

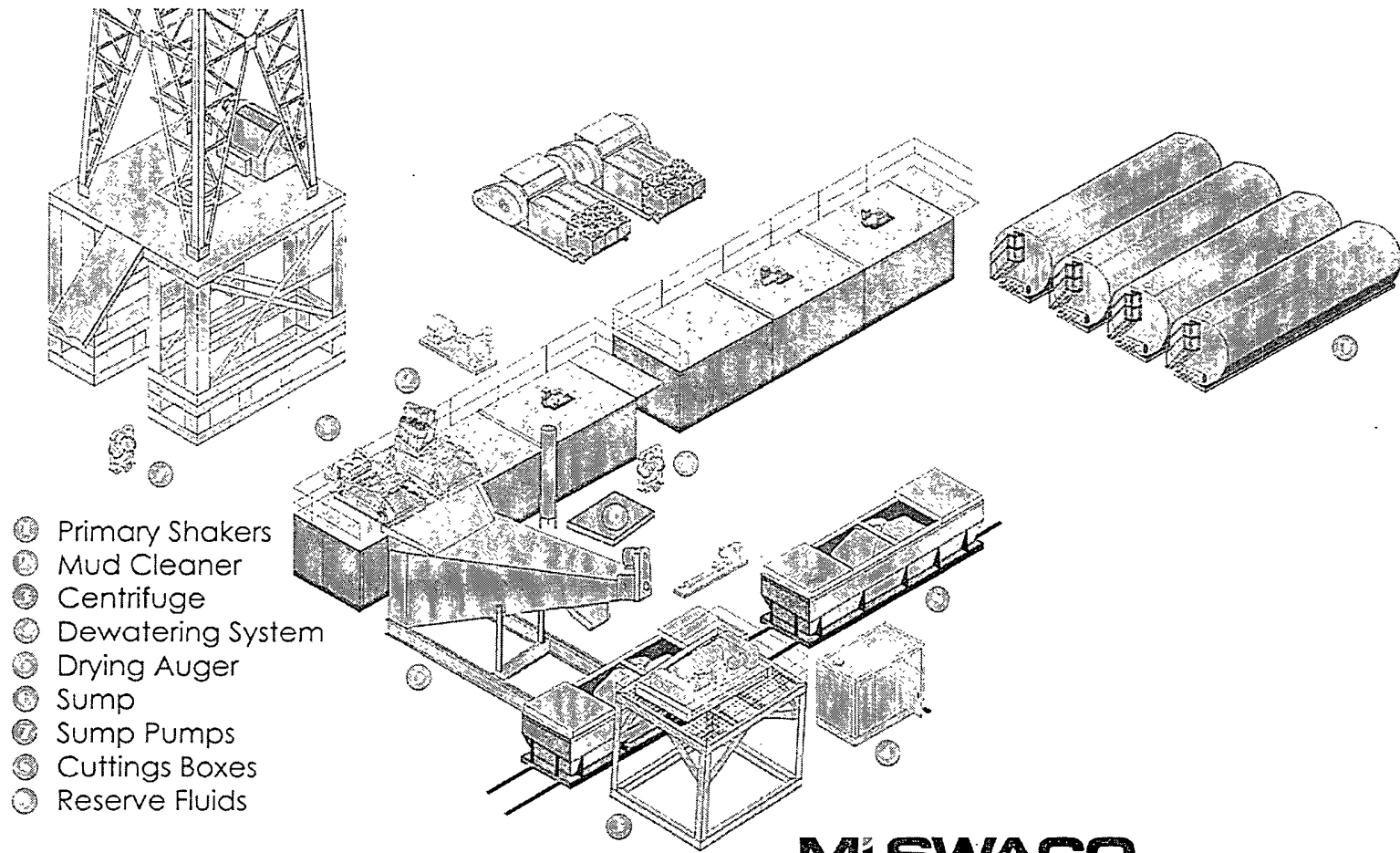
Spill prevention is accomplished by maintaining pump packing, hoses, and pipe fittings to insure no leaks are occurring. During an upset condition the source of the spill is isolated and repaired as soon as it is discovered. Free liquid is removed by a diaphragm pump and returned to the mud system. Loose topsoil may be used to stabilize the spill and the contaminated soil is excavated and placed in the cuttings boxes. After the well is finished and the rig has moved, the entire location is scrapped and tested for all regulated toxic materials. If found they are removed and disposed of per regulatory requirements.

Closure Plan

During drilling operations, all liquids, drilling fluids, and cuttings will be hauled off via CRI (Controlled Recovery Incorporated, Permit R-9166).



Closed Loop with Drying Auger and Dewatering System



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