

REVERSE CIRCULATION APPLIED TO
WORKOVER OF BEDDED SALT WELLS

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July 12, 1983

Abstract

The classical term "cleanout" of a bedded salt well was probably adopted from oil well technology where sand accumulations were removed from oil wells by bailer or sand pump run on a wire line. In bedded salt operations, "cleanout" involves redrilling of a hole in the insolubles remaining in the cavity so that tubing or a casing extension can be re-run to original t.d. in order to restore operation and regain well efficiency. Removal of cuttings created in this redrilling activity is required so that circulation may be resumed without need to "fluidize" the cuttings or risk inducing them into the well pump or surface piping. Cavity pressurization or air lift are proposed for cuttings removal and well "cleanout" prior to rerunning the tubing or casing extension.

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