

The Removal of Damaged Dewatering Tubing from a High Pressure Gas Storage Well

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Abstract

SSE are developing a nine cavern natural gas storage site at Aldbrough, East Yorkshire in the UK. The project was started in 2004 and is due for completion 2012.

On completion of the filling of the cavity with gas prior to the well being commissioned and accepted into service, the dewatering tubing has to be removed from the well, a process known as “Snubbing”. During the dewatering process there is a high probability that the tubing will become damaged below the production casing shoe, in this case 7” casing. To allow the safe removal of the dewatering tubing the bent section is cut and released into the cavity, and then plugged and removed (snubbed) from the well at 200 bar wellhead pressure.

During the snubbing of the dewatering tubing it was realised that the tubing cut and release had failed and the standard snubbing operation had to be suspended.

This paper outlines the programme of work that was carried out to achieve the successful removal of the remaining bent, plugged and partially cut dewatering tubing.

Key words: Snubbing, plugged, dewatering tubing, cut.