

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [J](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [V](#) [W](#)**Abandoned Well:**

Converting a drilled well to a condition that can be left indefinitely without further attention and which will not damage fresh water supplies or potential petroleum reservoirs.

Accord Acts:

The *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act*, S.C. 1988, c.28 and the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act*, S.N.S. 1987, c.3. The federal and provincial "mirror" legislation implements the provisions of the 1986 Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord and governs all petroleum related activities that take place in the offshore area.

Authigenic:

Refers to rocks/minerals which were formed or were generated in place.

B**Bitumen:**

Petroleum in semi-solid or solid forms.

Board, Board of Directors: refers to our Board Members who are appointed for fixed terms of office, two each by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia, and the Chair.

Blowout Preventer (BOP)/BOP Stack:

Blowout preventers/blowout preventer stack - an assembly of heavy-duty valves attached to the wellhead to control well pressure and prevent a blowout.

C**Capillary Pressure:**

A type of pressure data used to determine water saturation in a reservoir.

Casing:

Steel pipe set in a well to prevent the hole from sloughing or caving, to contain any wellbore fluids and to enable formations to be isolated (there may be several strings of casing in a well, one inside the other).

Cementing:

Pumping a liquid slurry of cement, water and other additives behind a string of casing to isolate formations.

CER:

Canadian Energy Regulator

Certificate of Fitness:

A certificate issued by a certifying authority stating that a design, plan or facility complies with the relevant regulations or requirements, is fit for purpose, and can be operated safely and without posing a threat to the environment.

Certifying Authorities:

Organizations designated under the Nova Scotia Offshore Certificate of Fitness Regulations to conduct examinations of designs, plans and facilities and to issue Certificates of Fitness.

CNSOPB:

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board.

Commingled Production:

Production of petroleum from more than one pool through a common wellbore or flowline without separate measurement of the petroleum.

Condensate:

The liquid resulting when a vapour is subjected to cooling or application of pressure. Also, liquid hydrocarbons condensed from gas and oil wells.

Core:

A cylindrical sample taken from a formation for geological analysis. Usually a conventional core barrel is substituted for the bit and procures a sample as it penetrates the formation.

Cuttings:

Chips and small fragments of rock produced by drilling that are circulated up from the drill bit to the surface by drilling mud.

D**Delineation Well:**

Well drilled after a discovery well to determine the areal extent of a reservoir.

Density:

The gravity of crude oil, indicating the proportion of large, carbon-rich molecules, generally measured in kilograms per cubic metre or degrees on the American Petroleum Institute (API) gravity scale.

Development Well:

A well drilled for natural gas (or crude oil) within a proven field or area for the purpose of completing the desired pattern of production.

Directional Drilling:

Intentional deviation of a wellbore from the vertical to reach target areas laterally displaced from the point where the drill bit enters the earth.

Disabling Injury:

A serious injury, as defined in the Accord Acts, that results in loss or partial loss of a body member or part or usefulness, permanent impairment or prevents an employee from reporting to work or performing their regular work.

Discovery Well:

The first well drilled on a geologic structure which discovers significant quantities of hydrocarbons.

Dispersant:

Dispersants are compounds specifically designed for use in marine environments which speed up the natural breakdown of the oil into smaller and smaller droplets which then enter the water column. When the droplets disperse into the water column, they are more quickly degraded by naturally-occurring bacteria which convert the oil into carbon dioxide and water.

Drill:

A drill is a coordinated, supervised activity usually employed to validate a single, specific operation or function in a single agency or organizational entity. Drills are commonly used to provide training on new equipment, develop or validate new policies or procedures, or practice and maintain current skills.

Drill Cores, Cores:

A cylindrical sample of rock obtained by drilling with a hollow donut-shaped bit and pipe.

Drill Pipe:

Steel pipe sections, approximately 9 metres long, that are screwed together to form a continuous pipe extending from the drilling rig to the drilling bit at the bottom of the hole. Rotation of the drill pipe and bit causes the bit to bore through the rock.

Drilling Fluid:

Fluids continuously circulated down the wellbore, to cool and lubricate the drill bit, lubricate the drill pipe, carry rock cuttings to the surface and control down hole pressure.

Drilling Mud:

A common term for drilling fluids.

E**Exercise:**

An exercise is a simulated emergency in which players carry out actions, functions, and responsibilities that would be expected of them in a real emergency. Exercises can be used to validate plans and procedures, and to practice prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

Exploratory Well:

A well in an area where petroleum has not been previously found or one targeted for formations above or below known reservoirs.

F**Fault:**

In a geological sense, a break or fracture zone along which there has been movement that results in the displacement of one side relative to the other.

Flow Line:

Subsea pipeline connecting satellite wells and/or platforms to a central production platform.

G**Gas Reservoir:**

A geologic rock unit layer that contains an accumulation of crude oil and/or natural gas.

Geophysical Survey:

These are remote sensing methods used operators to measure the properties of the rock layers beneath the seafloor and includes but is not limited to seismic, gravity and magnetic surveys.

H

Helideck:

A landing area or platform for helicopters on marine installations, structures or vessels.

Hydropressure:

The pressure on any rock at a given depth based on a hydrostatic head.

J

Jacket:

Offshore platform consisting of a framework of tubular members with a deck (or decks) on top and piles driven through the framework to fix the structure to the sea bed.

L

Lithologic, lithology:

The physical character of a rock.

Logging:

The systemic recording of data acquired either during drilling operations or after an interval of the well has been drilled. The data recorded during logging are measurements of the properties of the rock units that were encountered during drilling.

M

Manifold:

A piping arrangement containing valves to combine several flows, or re-route a flow to one of several possible destinations.

Mud Filtrate:

The fluid component of drilling mud which penetrates into the formation.

MWD (Measurement While Drilling):

The evaluation of physical properties, usually including [pressure](#), temperature and wellbore trajectory in three-dimensional space during the drilling process using instrumentation placed near the bit.

N**Natural Gas Liquids:**

Liquids obtained during natural gas production and refinement, including propane, butanes, and condensate.

Net Pay:

Refers to the sum of the productive intervals of a reservoir and is determined by the application of cutoffs.

O**Offshore Area (Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area):**

The area within the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore under the Board's jurisdiction as defined in Schedule 1 of the *Accord Acts*.

Oil Based Mud:

Drilling mud in which the main component is mineral oil.

Operator:

The holder of an authorization to conduct activities in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area.

Overpressure:

Formation pressure in excess of hydropressure.

P**Pay Zone:**

The producing part of a formation.

Perforate/Perforating:

Piercing the casing and cement using shaped explosive charges to provide a flow path for formation fluids.

Permeability:

The measure of a formation's ability to transmit fluids and/or gases.

Petroleum:

A naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons in gaseous, liquid or solid form.

Petrophysics:

Study of reservoir properties based on the data obtained from various logging tools and methods, and from drill cores.

Pool:

A natural underground reservoir containing an accumulation of petroleum.

Porosity:

The volume of the pore space expressed as a percent of the total volume of the rock mass.

Produced Water:

Water associated with oil and gas reservoirs that is produced along with the oil and/or gas, treated and disposed of.

Producing/Production:

Flowing oil and/or gas from a well to the production systems.

Production Platform:

An offshore structure equipped to produce and process oil and gas.

Production Tree, Christmas Tree

An arrangement of heavy duty valves and fittings installed on the wellhead to control flow from the well and/or to facilitate injection operations.

Production Well:

A well drilled and completed for the purpose of producing crude oil or natural gas.

R**Recoverable Reserves:**

That part of the hydrocarbon volumes in a reservoir that can be economically produced.

Reservoir:

A porous, permeable rock formation in which hydrocarbons have accumulated.

Reservoir Pressure:

The pressure of fluids and/or gases in a reservoir.

Resistivity:

The electrical resistance of a formation.

S**Satellite Wells:**

Subsea wells located remote from the production facility and connected to the facility by flowlines.

Shale:

A compacted sedimentary rock composed of detrital grains of clay and silt, finer than sandstone. Because they are tightly compacted and have virtually no permeability, shales may act as seals to prevent the migration, and permit the entrapment of, hydrocarbons.

Shut-in:

A well in which the valves in the production tree have been closed to cease production or injection operations from a well.

Sidetracking:

To drill a secondary wellbore away from the original wellbore. Sidetracks may be drilled to bypass an unusable section of the original well or to evaluate a nearby geological feature.

SOEP:

Sable Offshore Energy Project

Spud:

To start the drilling of a well.

Storage Facilities:

Facilities used for storing natural gas. They generally come in two forms: gaseous storage facilities and liquified natural gas (LNG) storage facilities. Gaseous storage facilities are usually salt caverns or depleted natural gas or crude oil reservoirs.

Suspension/Suspend:

The temporary cessation of drilling or production operations in a well.

T**Toxicity:**

The degree to which a toxin is harmful.

Toxin:

Any substance, which in sufficient quantity may be harmful to living things.

V**Viscosity:**

The resistance of a fluid flow.

W**Water-based Mud:**

A drilling mud in which the main component is water.

Well Workover:

A program of work performed on an existing well.

Wellbore:

The hole drilled by the drill bit.

Wellhead:

Steel equipment installed at the surface of the well containing an assembly of heavy duty hangars and seals (the wellhead is used to support the weight of casing strings hung from it and to contain well pressure).

Workover:

Operations on a producing well to restore or increase production.