CASE HISTORY

MUDSTRIPPER MAX™ Saves Kenya Operator Time and Money on Dewatering

The MUDSTRIPPER MAX system from QMax is a high-volume dewatering system specially designed to minimize processing time and waste volumes in remote areas.

Context
Due to well conditions, drilling speed, and efficient rig move operations, an operator in Kenya required a dewatering system that would ensure that all water-based waste was processed within the minimal amount of time. This included all drilling fluid, cement spacer, cement pre- and post-flow, cement wash up, and rig pit cleaning fluid.

Challenge
Volumes per well were expected to exceed 5,000 bbls with processing required in as little as five days. Therefore, a conventional dewatering system with a decanter centrifuge would not have the required capacity to ensure all waste fluids were processed prior to the rig moving to the next drilling location. On the first two wells, processing with the conventional dewatering package proved challenging due to meeting both the volume and timing requirements, resulting in waste pits not being emptied prior to rig move.

Solution
The MUDSTRIPPER MAX was deployed to the rig site and once operational significantly reduced dewatering and clean up time and costs between wells. This meant that all wastes from the wastes pits were processed before the rig moved to the next location, thus avoiding delays to the rig move. The MSM’s dual module approach provides a significantly higher flow dewatering option, with much faster processing times compared to conventional centrifuge-based dewatering systems.

FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY
The MUDSTRIPPER MAX comprises two modules. In the dewatering module, coagulants and flocculants are pre-mixed and then blended with the feed waste fluid in a deflector chamber where the solids flocculate and separate. In the separation module, the solids separate and drop to the bottom of the module through a series of inclined lamella plate chambers and the clean fluid is recycled back to the dewatering module for reuse. Once enough solids are evident in the separation module, they are discharged dry via a lobe-type pump to disposal.

Local Solutions for Local Drilling Needs
Results
Once the system was delivered to the rig site, chemical testing carried out, and the process optimized, the system proved to be invaluable, enabling the operator to reduce its waste and reuse the recovered water from the dewatering process to either make new drilling fluid or for pit cleaning.

Conclusion
With process improvements, the MUDSTRIPPER MAX unit continues to show significant value for the operator. Over the nine wells, 33,515 bbls of waste was processed. The seven wells deploying the MUDSTRIPPER MAX system recorded a significant increase in the average processing rate — up from 43 bbls to 250 bbls/hour — reducing dewatering time by up to 84% versus conventional dewatering methods. This proved to be of significant value to the customer.

Your Unique Well
Innovation is at the core of our global operations. Our unwavering commitment to providing optimum solutions for each customer’s unique well is how We Deliver, No Excuses. Contact QMax today and find out how we can help you with your next drilling challenge.

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