

# South Texas: ALPINE DRILL BEADS/DBRU reduces torque, increases ROP in oil-base mud

“We saw an immediate reduction in torque upon adding the beads. We also had expected some drag issues during trips, but experienced none.”

Directional Driller on location

## Well Information

Location .....	Eagle Ford Shale, La Salle County, TX
Spud.....	December 2010
Interval drilled.....	6-3/4-in horizontal section from 8463 ft to 12120 ft MD (2580-3694 m)
Mud Type/Density.....	MEGADRILL* 10.7 – 11.5 lb/gal (1.2 – 1.3 sg)

## The Situation

After the operator completed the build section and began the lateral section, the torque began to climb, while the ROP started to drop appreciably.

## The Solution

The Alpine Specialty Chemicals and M-SWACO team recommended the operator employ its ALPINE DRILL BEADS\* and ALPINE DRILL BEAD\* Recovery Unit (BRU) tandem. The recovery unit is designed to minimize the amount of beads lost to the surface solids-control equipment, thus eliminating costly and repetitive additions of drill beads to the mud system. Without a recovery unit, the majority of drill beads would be removed from the circulating system at the shale shakers.

ALPINE designed a system that meets strict industry guidelines for safety, minimizes the amount of personnel required and provides an efficient recovery method.

By utilizing the BRU the operator ensures all cuttings and solids removed at the rig shaker are transported to a second set of shakers. There, drill solids and waste material are separated from the drill beads, and discharged to the waste stream, while the drill beads are recovered and returned to the suction pit.

## The Results

While drilling the lateral, torque was increasing and ROP was decreasing and sliding was difficult. After adding 3% ALPINE DRILL BEADS to the system, torque immediately decreased 25% and ROP while sliding increased 20%. The operator was able to maintain control of torque and reasonable ROP was achieved for the remainder of the well. After the well reached TD approximately \$7,000 of beads were recovered from the mud system and put in to containers for use on the next well.

## Questions? We'll be glad to answer them.

If you'd like to know more about the DBRU and how it's performing for our other customers, please call the ALPINE SPECIALITY CHEMICALS or M-I SWACO office nearest you.



ALPINE SPECIALTY CHEMICALS,  
A business unit of M-I. LLC  
P.O. Box 42842  
Houston, Texas 77242-2842  
[www.alpinemud.com](http://www.alpinemud.com)  
E-mail: [info@alpinemud.com](mailto:info@alpinemud.com)

This information is supplied solely for informational purposes and M-I SWACO makes no guarantees or warranties, either expressed or implied, with respect to the accuracy and use of this data. All product warranties and guarantees shall be governed by the Standard Terms of Sale. Nothing in this document is legal advice or is a substitute for competent legal advice.