Scientific Contributions Oil & Gas, Vol. 46. No. 2, August: 65 - 73

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS OIL AND GAS
Testing Center for Oil and Gas
LEMIGAS

Journal Homepage:http://www.journal.lemigas.esdm.go.id
ISSN: 2089-3361, e-ISSN: 2541-0520

Comparative Study of Plug and Abandonment Using Balanced Plug Cementing Method: Case Study of Well "NOV-01" field "VITA"

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Manuscript received: April 03st, 2023; Revised: July 07st, 2023
Approved: July 24st, 2023; Available online: July 31st, 2023

ABSTRACT - The NOV-01 well is a directional well that has technical problems (fish), namely the stuck pipe problem and the problem of high land use operational costs. Based on the results of the evaluation of the economic and risk technical aspects, a plug & abandonment (P&A) was carried out for the NOV-01 well. The purpose of this research is to compare the 3 stages and 5 stages in P&A work and their influence on work program planning and budgeting. The research methodology is qualitative and quantitative. The NOV-01 well plug & abandonment activity is carried out by preparing a work program plan such as determining the depth interval of the well to be plugged, the volume of cement slurry & additives, as well as the rig method which all refer to the existing standards and regulations, namely SNI 13-6910-2002 and NORSOK D-010. The results of a comparative study on P&A planning at 3 stages required 279 sacks of cement and 450 sacks of cement at 5 stages with a density of 15.8 ppg. P&A on well NOV-01 uses the rig method with a capacity of 450 HP. For 3 stages it takes 9 days and 5 stages for 11 days. Comparison of the estimated P&A costs for the NOV-01 well for stage 5 costs more than stage 3. However, the suitable P&A for the NOV-01 well is 5 stages because there is an overpressured zone so cement plug isolation is carried out.

Keywords: fish, plug & abandonment, rig method, work program

How to cite this article:

KRT. Nur Suhascaryo, CIIQA and Andi Novita Mama Anugrah, 2023, Comparative Study of Plug and Abandonment Using Balanced Plug Cementing Method: Case Study of Well "NV-01" Field "NS", Scientific Contributions Oil and Gas, 46 (2) pp., 65-73 DOI.org/10.29017/SCOG.46.2.1502.

INTRODUCTION

Plug and abandonment is a process of closing the well permanently. This activity involves closing the wellbore again and securing it for several months to years or permanently because the well is no longer economical to produce. The main objective is to ensure that there is no leakage to the surface and no migration of formation fluids occurs even after years of abandonment of the well. Well closures are undertaken to effectively seal off all potential hydrocarbon-carrying zones from the water zone and to protect zones that may contain other minerals that might cause problems. Cementing operations that are not successful perfectly can cause many problems, including the closure of productive formations and the difficulty of controlling water production in productive formations (Saroyo 2014). In order for

the purpose of cementing to be achieved, cement must have properties that can function properly in the conditions of each well. In some cases old abandoned wells often experience annular leaks or loss of casing integrity which can further complicate plug & abandonment operations. These cases often require the operator to cut and pull the tubular tubing or part factory casing to gain access to the leak interval and seal it. Therefore, it is necessary to have good planning from a technical and operational point of view, so that this case does not occur when the plug and abandonment work is to be carried out. In oil wells, indicators of the success of plug cementing are seen from the compressive test after cement is placed in the well (Fitrianti et al. 2020).

Well "NOV-01" is an exploratory well which was then continued with re-entry work in 2020, but experienced a pipe stuck which caused part of the series to be left in the wellbore (fish). In the re-entry work, it indicated that work could not be resumed due to problems well control issues and pipe stuck problems so that the "NOV-01" well is temporarily suspended. Based on operational studies, fishing operations in the "NOV-01" well can no longer be carried out, and the option of side track drilling has a high potential risk from an operational standpoint so that it will have an impact on the project's economics. Therefore, Well "NOV-01" was determined to carry out permanent plug & abandonment well work, which currently has a temporarily suspended status and is a leased area, and it is not economical to continue operations. Wells that are no longer used for economic activities must be abandoned in accordance with applicable regulations. There are several problems that may occur in the well, so that needs to be considered when implementing a plug & abandonment well.

In well NOV-01, fish problems occurred start with a problem stuck pipe which caused several Bottom Hole Assembly (BHA) circuits in the drill hole. Top fish is at a depth of 3737 ftMD. The total depth of fish is from 3737-4145 ftMD, with a total length of 408 ftMD left behind. To overcome these problems, several fishing job operations have been carried out, but they were not successful and will increase the cost of the activities carried out so that they are considered uneconomical. In addition, well NOV-01 is located in a residential area managed by the Gresik area, East Java. Therefore, to continue operating the well requires a land lease of ± 1 billion/month. After the economic evaluation was carried out, the condition of the well which had a fairly high risk and used leased land, caused the marginal economic of well NOV-01 to become uneconomical from operations could not be continued.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this research is qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative methods are used to analyze the problems that occur in the wells and a comparative study analysis is carried out for 3 stages and 5 stages in plug and abandonment work. Quantitative methods are used to calculate the work program, especially the slurry, additives and completion fluids used as well as the costs required for plug & abandonment (P&A) activities. In addition, in planning P&A work, the method used is the balance plug cementing method. In principle, the balanced plug cementing method places a cement column on the drillpipe whose height must be the same as that of the annulus (Nelson 2006) to ensure that the hydrostatic pressure in the drillpipe and annulus is equal (balanced). For more details on the methodology can be seen through the flowchart in Figure 1.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Data

Research data in this study were obtained from Well NOV-01 in Field VITA which is located in Tuban, East Java. The data available in this study are well schemes, well completion, tubing details, casing details, well perforation depths, and cement information in several casing strings. The data will be used for planning cement volume, additive volume, completion fluid volume, work program, operating time, and economics for 3 stages & 5 stages of plug and abandonment work. In addition, for analysis and comparative analysis of the two cement plug stages so that optimum results are obtained for plug and abandonment work.Well NOV-01 is an oil exploration well with temporarily suspended status which will continue with plug and abandonment work. This is because the well has fish problems along 408 ftMD and the economy of the land. The series of BHA left in the well are 5-3/4" OS, 3-1/2" HWDP, 4-3/4" DC, 4-3/4 Jar, 4-3/4" MM, and 6 "TCB. Then, the tubing used in the plug and abandonment operation is 2.875 inch. In well NOV-01 plug and abandonment work program work, for 3 stage planning refers to SNI-13-6910-2002, while for 5 stage planning refers to NORSOK D-010.

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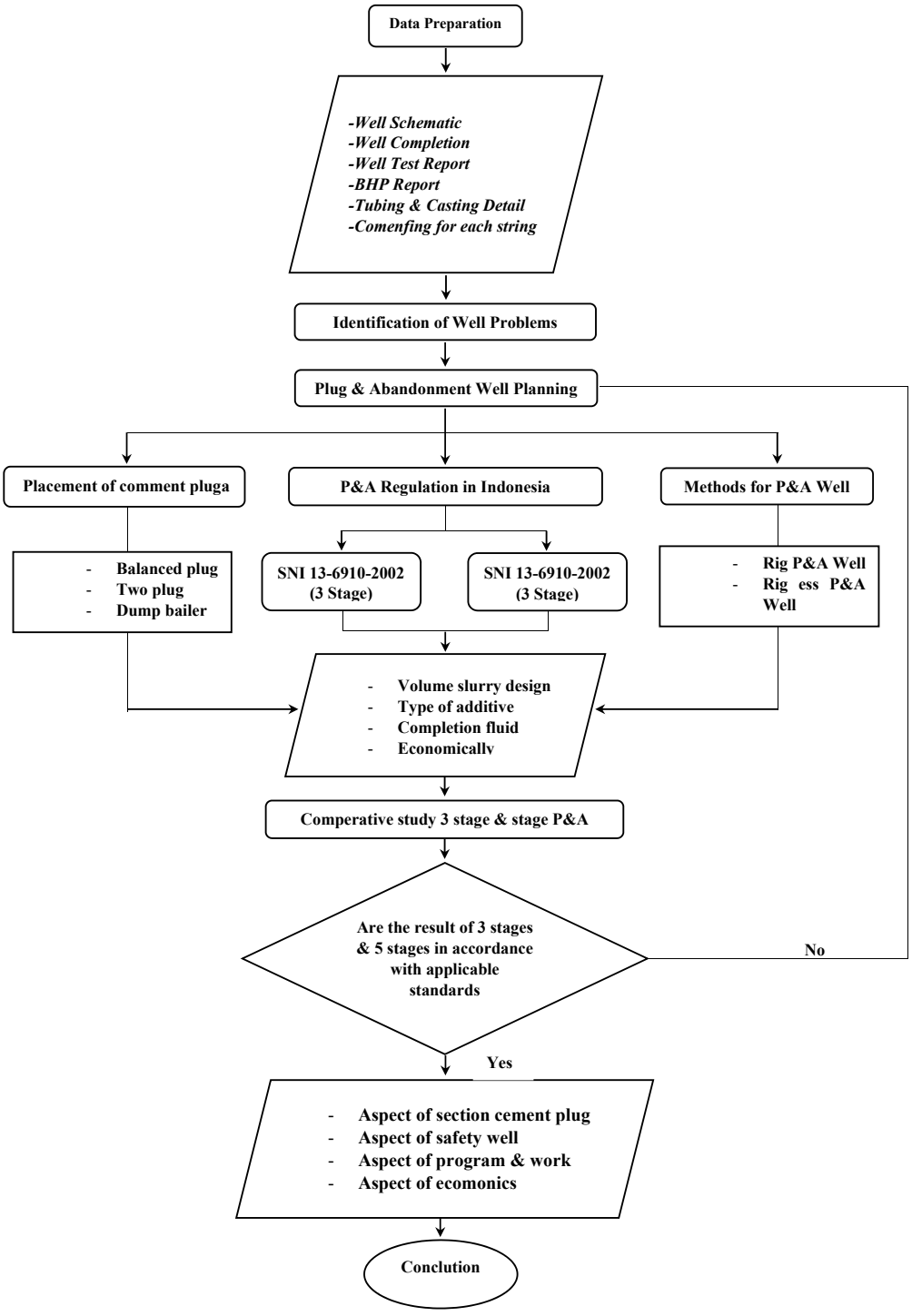

Figure 1
Research Flowchart

Plug and Abandonment for Well NOV-01-01

Work program plug and abandonment well NOV-01, for planning 3 stages refers to SNI-13-6910-2002, while for planning 5 stages refers to NORSOK D-010. Each work plan consists of several stages which will be explained in the following point.

SNI-13-6910-2022

- In planning a cement plug to close the perforation interval zone, namely at a cement plug depth of 3637 – 4145 ftMD. At this stage, in planning, the author has referred to regulation SNI-13- 6910-2002 which states that cement plugs must be installed by the pushing method

through the entire perforation interval and cement plugs must reach all perforation intervals of at least 100 ft above the perforation interval up to minimum 100 ft below the perforation interval or to the nearest casing plug. If there are two perforation intervals that are closely spaced, one cement plug is cemented.

- Planning a cement plug at a depth of 3077-3277 ftMD on casing stump blockage. At this stage, the author refers to regulation SNI-13-6910-2002 which states that if the casing is cut and removed, the casing stump must be plugged with a cement plug that reaches a minimum of 100 ft above the stump and 100 ft above the top of the liner.
- A cement plug at a depth of 0-150 ftMd for surface plugs. At this stage, the author refers to the regulation SNI-13-6910-2002 which states that the surface cement plug has a length of at least 150 ft. Cement plugs should be placed in the smallest casing that reaches the mudline.

NORSOK D-010

- A cement plug to cover the perforation interval zone or primary well barrier, namely at a cement plug depth of 3500 – 4145 ftMD. At this stage, in planning, the author has referred to NORSOK D-010 regulations by placing a cement plug which functions as a barrier to the main well against the flow of formation fluid and isolates potential sources of inflow to the surface.
- A cement plug for isolating the top of the liner at a depth of 3000-3177 ftMD as a well barrier because at the top of the liner usually cement is not carried out as is the case for the casing for the annulus, therefore the P&A top of liner needs a cement plug . Placement of the cement plug is carried out on top of the next casing shoe until it reaches the top of the liner.
- Planning of cement plugs for hydrocarbon bearings at depths of 1625-1775 ftMD as isolation in each part of the casing shoe. Based on the NORSOK D-010 standard, for each casing shoe it is necessary to carry out a cement plug as a secondary well barrier or back-up to the primary well barrier.
- A cement plug at a depth of 522-672 ftMD as isolation in each part of the casing shoe. Based on the NORSOK D-010 standard, for each casing shoe it is necessary to carry out a cement plug as a secondary well barrier or back-up to the primary well barrier.
- Planning cement plugs for hydrocarbon bearings at a depth of 0-150 ftMD as isolation from the water zone (fresh water). Based on the NORSOK D-010 standard, to minimize the risk due to contamination with intervals containing fresh water, a cement plug is placed to isolate all fresh water intervals. Most of this fresh water is generally in shallow wellbore so that it can do with the surface plug zone.

Best Practice. The best practices included in this paper were developed from a literature review referring to field case studies of plug and abandonment work. This paper describes options that should be considered during well-abandonment planning and describes the options that should be considered during good plug and abandonmnet planning. Ultimately, however, the operator must decide how the well will be abandoned and whether this practice will be beneficial from a safety perspective when the well is permanently abandoned and to protect the environment.

Cement Design. Cement plugs shall be designed for static bottom hole conditions at each plug setting depth. Expected bottom hole pressure and temperature are controlling factors in slurry selection. The slurry density shall be designed for bottom hole pressure. Additive concentration should be based on bottom hole temperature to ensure proper placement time and compressive strength development. In the plug cement design for well NOV-01 using class G cement with additional additives namely silica flour, defoamer, friction reducer cement, fluid loss control, anti migration gas, and gelling agent. Each piece of cement plug uses a different volume of additive.

Cement Placement. Cement should be placed in a clean and known environment. Placement of the cement plug in well NOV-01-01 uses the balanced plug cementing method. This method can be an effective and inexpensive way to isolate a perforation, but it is not without risks. This method works by lowering the drillpipe into the wellbore to the destination where the cement plug will be made. To avoid mud contamination, adjust the volume of the spacer that will be pumped from top to bottom of the cement slurry. The pre-flush is pumped before the cement and then followed by a spacer or limiting fluid.

Calculation of P&A

The following is an example of calculating the cement plug volume for the perforation zone. Based on calculation the column length of cement from bottom perforation to top perforation is 70 ftMD. Add safety margin of 100 ftMD above the top perforation and 100 ftMD from the bottom perforation in accordance with regulations and standards, the results is 508 ftMD. Calculation the volume of cement slurry needed to filling the casing column is 19,46 bbl. From count the total perforations is 350 hole/ft with volume of cement slurry that enters the perforation hole is 6,23 bbl. From this, height of the cement when the string (tubing) is in the wellbore is 763,23 ftMD with top of cement (TOC) when the string is in the wellbore 3381,77 ftMD. Total cement slurry required for the perforation zone included cement slurry for volume casing, volume cement slurry in perforation zone, and volume cement slurry with dead volume is 29,68 bbl. Total sack of cement required, slurry yield = 1,19 cuft/sack is 140 sackFrom the calculation of cement volume referring to SNI-6910-2002 and NORSOK D-010 standards, the total volume of cement slurry for P&A obtained from each regulation is as follows:

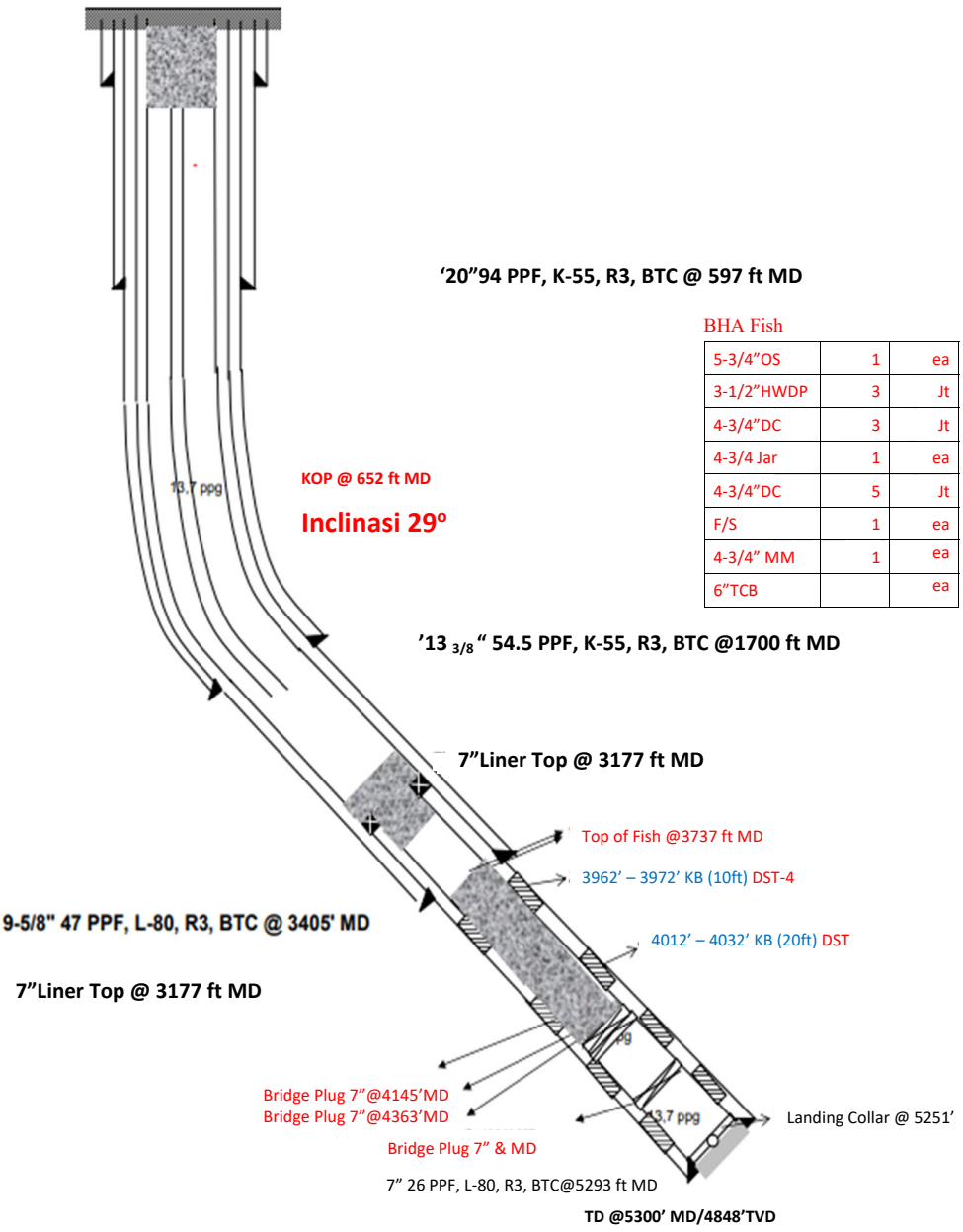

Figure 2
P&A Design with SNI 6910-2002

The following is a tabulation of cement plug volume calculation results based on SNI 6910-2002 standards.

Table 1
Cement Slurry P&A SNI-6910-2002

Cement Plug	Length of Cement, ftMD	Cement Volume, bbl	Quantity. Cement, sack
I	508	29,68	140
II	200	15,15	70
III	150	14,98	69
Total		59,82	279

A comparative analysis was conducted to find out the advantages and disadvantages of each regulation for plug and abandonment well work. This comparative analysis will later be used to select the appropriate regulation by taking into account the condition of the wells and the economics of P&A activities. The following is a comparison of the SNI-6910-2002 (3 stages) and NORSOK D-010 (5 stages).

Cement Plug Section

Based on SNI-6910-2002, cement plugs are placed in the perforation interval isolation zone, top isolation of liner, and surface insulation. The placement of the cement plug does not take into account the existence of an overpressured zone, so it is necessary to mitigate if a problem occurs during the P&A work. For each part of the casing shoe section it is not required to place a cement plug with the consideration that the pressure that the cement plug has is able to withstand the formation pressure in the well. The hydrocarbon zone is considered one, that is, from the well and there are no other hydrocarbon zones around the well so that the isolation of the hydrocarbon bearing zone is ignored.

Refers to NORSOK D-010 in Figure 3, cement plugs are placed in perforation interval isolation zone as a primary well barrier, top of liner isolation, hydrocarbon bearing isolation or overpressured zone as a secondary well barrier, isolation for each section of casing shoe, and isolation of the surface water zone (fresh water). Placement of the cement plug takes into account the existence of an overpressured zone or abnormal pressure, therefore, it is necessary to place a cement plug across the transition interval, where the length of the plug is at least 200 ft or at least reaches normal pressure in certain casing sections. In each section of the casing shoe, it is necessary to carry out cementing by considering the differences in formation for each section and changes in rock lithology. Considering a zone that contains other hydrocarbon intervals around the well so that a cement plug is needed in that zone.

Safety of P&A

SNI-6910-2002, isolation at 3 stages of cement plug has fulfilled the safety aspect for P&A work so that problems can be minimized. If there is a risk of gas contamination or there is an overpressured zone, this should be considered when using a 3 stage cement plug, show in the Figure 2.

The isolation of the fresh water zone serves to prevent surface contamination from unwanted things. The risk of contamination by gas or overpressured zones can be avoided by placing a cement plug. Conditions to maintain formation pressure in the well are safer for NORSOK D-010, show in the Figure 3.

Table 2
Cement Slurry P&A NORSOK D-010

Cement Plug	Length of Cement, ftMD	Cement Volume, bbl	Quantity. Cement, sack
I	645	34,93	165
II	177	16,95	78
III	150	14,98	69
IV	150	14,98	69
V	150	14,98	69
Total		96,83	450

Work and Program

In terms of program and work time using a 3 stage cement plug, namely 9 days of operation. In terms of program and work time using a 5 stage cement plug, namely 11 days of operation.

Economic Analysis

The costs required for the SNI-6910-2002 (3 stage) P&A operation are IDR 6,062,977,890.31 or USD 389,401.28. The costs required for NORSOK D-010 (5 stage) P&A operation are IDR 8,374,824,218.62 or USD 537,882.09. With a 5 stage cement plug, the costs incurred will be higher with more cement volume. In well NOV-01, the type of

cement plug that is suitable for use is 5 stage cement plug. This is because well NOV-01 has an overpressured zone so it is necessary to isolate or place a cement plug in that zone. In addition, it also takes into account changes in rock lithology for each casing section, so that the placement of cement plugs in each casing section is to consider the safety of the well when abandoned in the long term.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of comparative study of plug & abandonment using balanced plug cementing method, it can be concluded well NOV-01 is planned for plug & abandonment by reason of problems with fish availability and well economy. The plug and abandonment technique used is using a rig with a power rating capacity of 450 HP

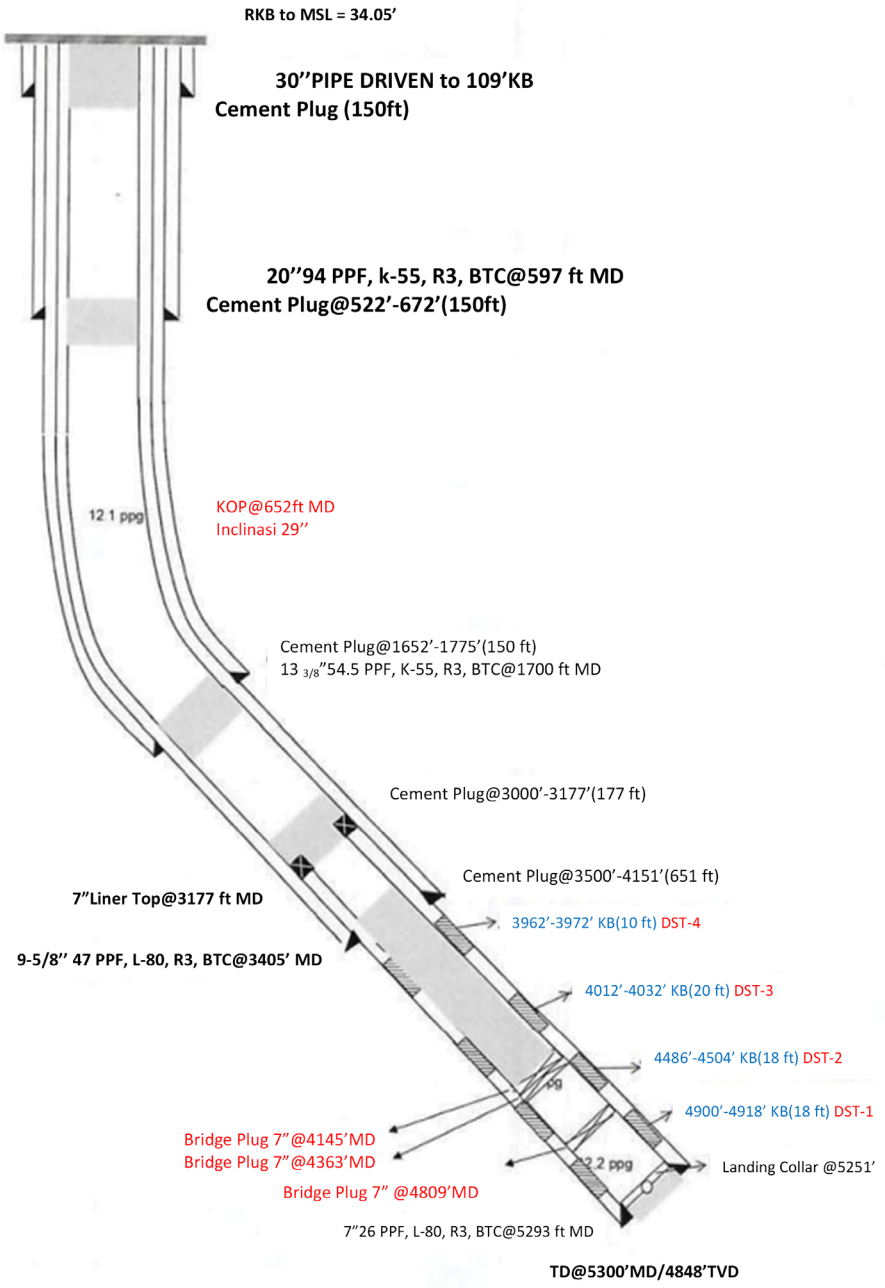

Figure 3
P&A Design with NORSOK D-010

for a total depth of 5300 ftMD with a drillpipe size of 3 ½ inches. P&A work for the SNI-6910-2002 standard (3 stages) takes 9 days of operation, while for NORSOK D-010 (5 stages) it takes 11 days of operation. Based on economic analysis, a comparison of the estimated costs required for P&A work, namely for the 3 stages is Rp. 6,602,977,890.31 - or the equivalent of USD 389,401.28 -, while for the 5 stages, it is Rp. 8,374,824,218.61 - or the equivalent of USD 537,822 ,09-. From economical analysis for plug & abandonment work program 3 stage is more efficient than 5 stage.

In the "NOV-01" well, taking into account the condition of the well, the type of cement plug that is suitable for use is 5 stage cement plug which refers to the NORSOK D-010 standard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank PT Pertamina EP Cepu, UPN "Veteran" Yogyakarta, and all stakeholders who have assisted in the preparation of this journal.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Unit	Definition	Symbol
MD	Measured depth	ft
TVD	True vertical depth	ft
SPF	Shoot per foot	cuft/hole
Sann	Capacity of annulus	bbl/ft
Csg	Casing	inch
DP	Drill pipe	inch
TOC	Top of cement	ft
P&A	Plug & abandonment	

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