# Marginal Project Development

# A case study of the MC-66 / OCHRE Project

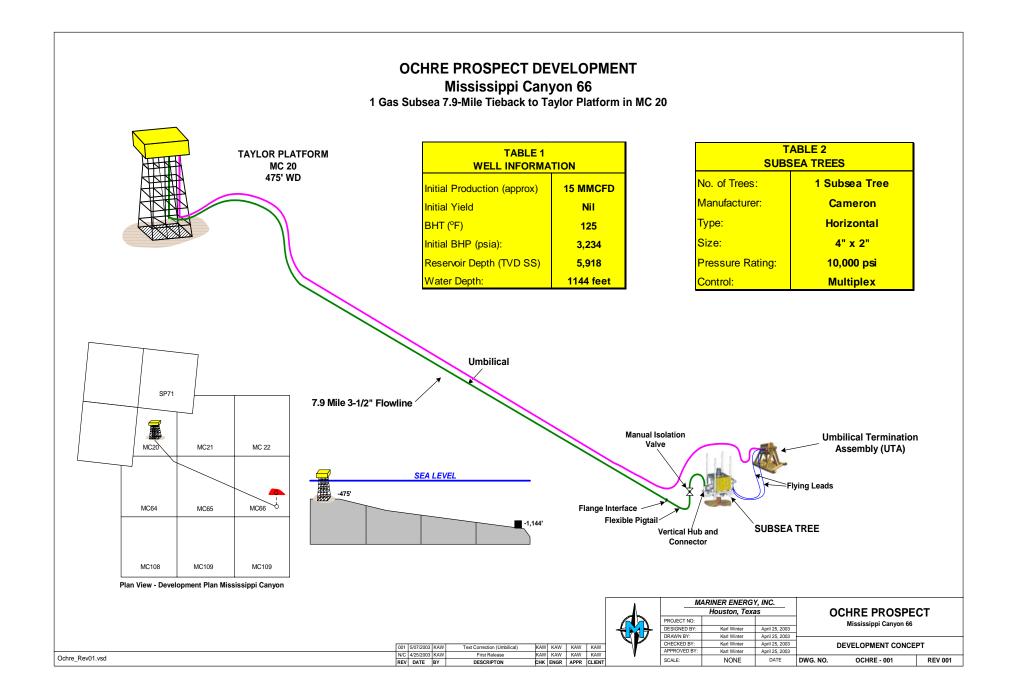
**Richard Weser** 











# Profitable Development of Marginal Deepwater Prospects Demand...

- 1. Innovative Solutions to Reduce Cost
- 2. Cost Containment Strategies:
  - exceed budget  $\rightarrow$  little or no profit, 'capital recovery' at best
  - commercial engineering lump-sum, shared incentives
  - make careful technology choices with good recovery options
- 3. Careful Risk Management:
  - leverage 'proven' technology extensively
  - borrow, 'steal shamelessly'
  - gradual implementation of 'new' technology
  - be aware that the vendor's risk profile is different than the operator's

# Four Operations Conducted From Monohulled MSV's:

- 1. **Plug & Abandonment** of subsea wells
- 2. Installation of a subsea tree
- 3. Recovery of a preinstalled umbilical
- 4. Recovery of Jumpers, Flying Leads, PLETS, and UTA's

#### Case Study 1:

Plug & Abandonment of Subsea Wells with Horizontal Subsea Trees from a Mono-hull Multi-Service Vessel.

- A precedent for the Gulf of Mexico.
- Accomplished via wireline intervention from MSV.
- Total cost: \$1.8 million per well (3-well lump-sum)
- Savings: \$1.5 million per well (vs. semi-sub rig).

# Subsea Well P&A:



- Traditionally conducted from a drilling rig on a moored semi-submersible vessel.
- Water Depth: 750 feet to 1,100 feet
- Performed by 254 ft DP-2 MSV with 60 ton A-Frame over moonpool.

# Typical Subsea Development

#### Horizontal Subsea Tree

**Flowline Jumper** 

Pipeline End Termination

production hub

# Flowline to Host Platform

# General P&A Procedure (1)

- 1. Bleed down flowline & disconnect flowline jumper.
- 2. Install IWOCS to control the tree. Check tree functions.
- 3. Connect coiled tubing to the production hub on the subsea tree.
- 4. Kill well and establish injectivity via production hub.
- 5. Pump cement plug into producing zone and allow plug to set.
- 6. Leave cement in the tubing.
- 7. Hydro-test the plug.

## **General P&A Procedure (2)**

- 7. Re-enter the well. Pull debris cap. Pull internal tree cap.
- 8. Install Subsea Intervention Lubricator System (SILS) on subsea tree. Pull tubing hanger plug.
- 9. Perforate tubing and casing and set intermediate plugs as required.
- 10. Cut tubing w/ wireline below SCSSV. Release tubing hanger and recover tubing.





#### **Subsea Intervention Lubricator System**



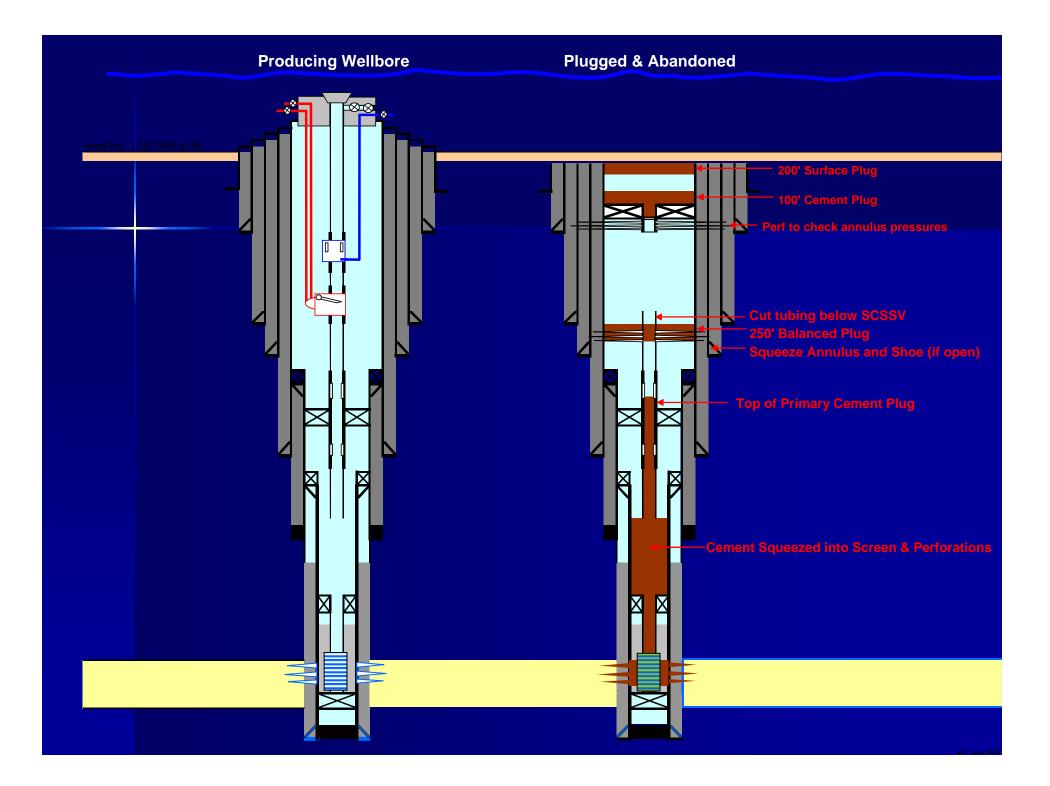
Subsea Tree Interface

## **General P&A Procedure (3)**

- Perforate upper casings & check for pressure. Set any required plugs.
- 12. Set surface plug 150' below mud line.
- 13. Unlatch and retrieve subsea tree.
- 14. Cut casings 15 feet below the mud line.
- 15. Retrieve wellhead and casing stump



Tree Retrieval Tool with ROV Panel (left of tree #3) allows unlatching and pulling of the tree on cable.



# **Advantages of MSV**

DP mono-hull MSV's offer cost advantages:

- Lower mobilization costs; no mooring

– No marine riser

No production (test) riser – no SSTT

#### Case Study 2:

Installation of a horizontal subsea tree from a mono-hull multi-service vessel without buoyancy compensation.

- A precedent for the Gulf of Mexico.
- Total cost: \$80,000.
- Less than six hours spent on location.
- Resulted in savings of \$300,000.

# Installation of a Horizontal Subsea Tree from a Mono-hull MSV Without Buoyancy Compensation

Water Depth: 1,200 feet

Well drilled, cased, then temporarily abandoned.

Bridging sleeve already installed in wellhead – ready to receive the subsea tree.

#### **Requirements:**

- Bridging sleeve must be installed in wellhead before the well is temporarily abandoned.
  - The wellhead must be ready to receive the subsea tree.
  - Do not leave the wear bushing in place.
- ROV interface panel to operate tree running tool and to test the gasket seal.
- Without buoyancy-compensation sea conditions must be less than 5 feet.
- Need contingency mud mat to set tree on sea floor if conditions are too rough to land on wellhead.
  - Final installation on the wellhead is done with the rig.

# MSV with Dual 125 Aft / 80 Mid-deck Ton Cranes



Ochre Tree Installation September 2003

# Installation of a Horizontal Subsea Tree

Tree running tool with ROV interface panel.

10K 4" x 2" Horizontal SpoolTree<sup>™</sup> MUX control pod Recovered during P&A. Refurbished in 60 days Weight: 72,000 lbs Footprint: 16.6' x 16.3'

On deck of MSV with tree running tool installed



# **Installation Procedure (1)**

- 1. Perform SIT tree & running tools.
- 2. Mobilize tree to dock. Transfer tree to deck and install tree running tool.
- 3. Transit MSV to location, perform DP checks.
- 4. Remove debris cap with ROV clean gasket prep.





# **Installation Procedure (2)**

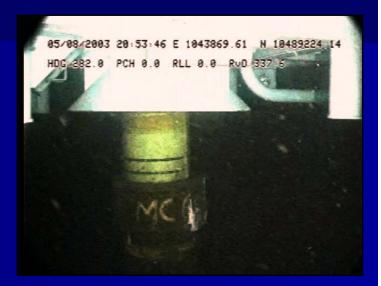
- 5. Position vessel ~100 ft off location.
- 6. Splash tree with crane. Monitor with ROV.
- 7. Move vessel over well.
- 8. Using ROV, guide tree funnel over wellhead.





# **Installation Procedure (3)**

- 8. Orient tree to desired heading using ROV.
- 9. Land tree on wellhead.
- 10. Latch & lock tree via ROV hot stab.
- 11. Test gasket seal via ROV hot stab.





# **Installation Procedure (4)**

- 12. Release tree running tool via ROV interface.
- 13. Set debris cap on subsea tree with ROV.
- 14. Depart location.

Total time spent on location was less than six hours.





#### Advantages of MSV

- Tree installation is taken off the critical path.
  - Reduces completion operations sensitivity to weather.
- No handling of tree on drilling rig.
  - Allows use of less-expensive rigs with smaller moonpools and/or limited crane capacity.
  - On Ochre, limited crane capacity required keel-hauling the tree.
- Flexibility in installation timing allows MSV to install tree during good weather as work schedule allows.
  - Reduces MSV's weather sensitivity and MSV cost.
  - Reduces MSV's cost sharing mobilization with other projects.
- Estimated savings to Ochre Project: US\$300,000

#### Case Study 3:

Recovery of a decommissioned umbilical for use at a new location.

Cost to recover, terminate and test \$600k.

Savings over new \$1.2 m and greatly reduced delivery schedule.

# Midnight Wrangler



# **Umbilical Recovery**



# **Cost Saving Strategy**

- Give contractor a wide window to perform operation.
- MSV was in area with retrieval gear already on board.
  Key to the Savings we realized.

#### Case Study 4:

- Retrieval of bottom founded equipment utilizing a MSV.
- This equipment is mandated by regulation to be removed from bottom as part of flowline and umbilical abandonment.
- Saving over new estimated at least 50%.







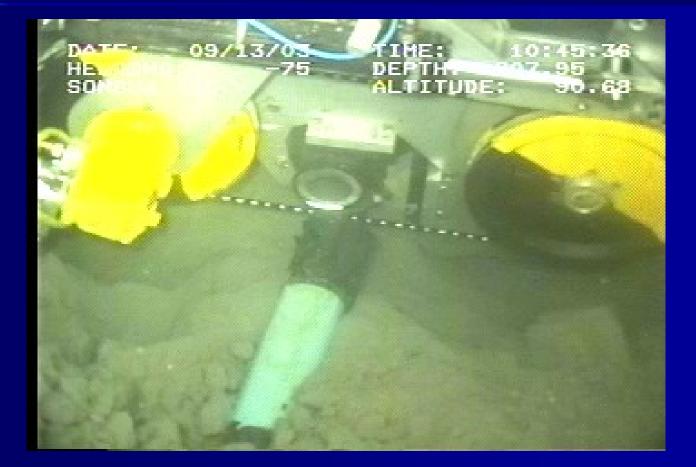








# **Diamond Saw**











## **Summary & Conclusions:**

- Innovation must be combined with Cost Containment and Risk Management to be successful.
- Best Practices should be re-evaluated for each prospect -"a horse for every course."
- Simplicity often means cost savings avoid unnecessary complexity.
- Teamwork is critical. Early vendor involvement & alliances with key suppliers is needed to attract quality talent and innovation.
- Commercial Engineering (lump-sums, incentives) is crucial to aligning operator and vendor motivation and risk profiles.
- Place Responsibility and Accountability at the execution team level. Reward innovation & results. Challenge, but avoid micro-management.

## Impact of Lower-cost Solutions

- Crucial for profitable development of marginal prospects in mature deepwater basins.
- Lower costs for anticipated interventions (workovers, recompletions, etc.) qualify more prospects for sanction.
- Lower costs for long-term obligations (P&A) frees capital available for development and improves corporate balance sheets.