



OESG

10—Drilling fluids

Features

Drilling fluids perform a variety of useful functions when a well is drilled, whether that's a shale gas well or a drinking water well. For instance, they help prevent the sides of the hole collapsing, remove debris and lubricate the drill bit.

Advantages

Preventing a well collapsing as it is drilled ensures that the bore maintains its integrity so that the protective casing can be installed. Clearing debris and lubricating the drill bit reduces resistance to speed up drilling and means less power is required to drive the rig motor.

Benefits

A well drilled hole can accept the protective casing that is later used to isolate the well from the surrounding environment, so drilling fluids aid the proper building of wells that don't leak. Quicker well construction means the drilling rig spends less time on site, and there is potentially less noise generated by the rig motors due to reduced power demand, which lessens the visual and noise impact of drilling.

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