

Features

Small fragments of rock called ‘cuttings’ are circulated to the surface during drilling, carried in the drilling fluids (also called ‘muds’). When they exit the well, the cuttings are typically ground-up, suspended in the fluid, and then put through a separation process that creates a damp solid for removal from site and a liquid that can be reused in subsequent drilling operations. The solids are often recycled for use in artificial soil production in contaminated land remediation applications.

Advantages

By processing cuttings and muds in this way, it is possible to maximise the opportunities for fluid reuse in-situ at the drill site whilst preparing the ground-up cuttings for off-site reuse too.

Benefits

Putting recovered drilling fluids to work in subsequent drilling operations reduces the demand for clean water whilst also avoiding the creation of waste that needs to be removed from site—both of which can reduce HGV movements. Additionally, the cuttings can be put to beneficial use rather than simply being sent for landfill disposal.

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