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Best Management Practices for Discharge of Synthetic Mud Cuttings

US Gulf of Mexico regulations with regard to the use of synthetic based muds (SBMs) have recently changed. This change has limited the permissible quantity of synthetic fluid which can be discharged with the drill cuttings and will require that additional equipment be used. As a part of this new regulation, EPA has allowed the use of 'Best Management Practices' (BMPs) to limit the amount of monitoring that is required. This mix of having a partial numerical discharge limit and using BMPs to limit the required monitoring is a new twist to environmental regulation. The features of the new regulations and details of a model BMP plan will be presented. If information from a proposed field demonstration of the BMP plan is available, it too will be presented.