



Cairo University

# **EXPERT SYSTEM FOR MUD LOSSES & STUCK PIPE PROBLEMS DURING DRILLING OPERATIONS**

By

**Ahmed Mahmoud Mohamed Abu-El-Ella**

A Thesis Submitted to the  
Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University  
In Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of  
**Master of Science**  
In  
**Petroleum Engineering**

Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University  
GIZA, EGYPT  
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**Under the Supervision of**

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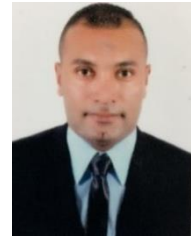
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**Title of Thesis:**

Expert System for Mud Losses & Stuck Pipe During Drilling Operations.

**Key Words:**

Drilling Operation; Drilling Problems; Mud Losses; Drilling Fluids; Stuck Pipe.

**Summary:**

Drilling operations are often accompanied by problems which have many adverse effects on the overall progression of the entire endeavor, and dealing with them can; in many cases can cause to the success or the failure of the whole operation. Efficiency of drilling operations is usually expressed in many parameters; such as, overall cost and NPT (Non-Productive Time). Mud losses and pipe sticking are two of the major drilling problems that can have severe effects on the above mentioned factors. Logically speaking, the best possible way to deal with any problem is to avoid it all together. However, achieving such a goal would require the ability to anticipate, detect and intercept the problem before it occurs, which requires certain levels of experience and knowledge from all parties included in the planning and execution phases of the drilling operations. Thus, a need for a platform which combines, experience, knowledge, history data and ease of access is not only understood; but also, any efforts to cover such gaps are always welcomed and appreciated.

The EXPERT SYSTEM program is user friendly platform that integrates previous experiences, accumulated knowledge, recorded history data, along with real time collected data to provide the end user with both; preventive measures that help in avoiding incidents leading to mud losses or sticking of drill string pipes. Also the corrective counter measures shall any of those problems occur during drilling operations.

# **DISCLAIMER**

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and that no part of it has been submitted for a degree qualification at any other university or institute.

I further declare that I have appropriately acknowledged all sources used and have cited them in the references section.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

## **DEDICATION**

I would like to present this writing to my family for giving me all the inspiration and support I need.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful, and peace is upon his prophet Mohamed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the people who have been an essential part of my studies at Cairo University. Special thanks go to Prof. Dr. Abdel Sattar A. Dahab who was always willing to provide his insights and direction and his full support during the entire research period. I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Eissa M. Shokir for his invaluable guidance, inspiration and support in the development of this work and throughout my studies at Cairo University.

Thanks to my colleagues at the General Petroleum Company due to their contributing in the development of this work. Special thanks go to Eng. Hamdy Taha & Eng. Mahmoud Farag whom was always willing to provide their insight and directions.

I would also like to thank my family and my wife whom has been a constant source of support throughout this period.

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