

SPE REVIEW

The magazine for the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers



**SPE Aberdeen's
40th anniversary
success**

**Engineering a
long-term future
for the North Sea**



Society of Petroleum Engineers
Aberdeen Section
www.spe-uk.org

Back to business

September is the month when the London and Aberdeen sections get back to business once more following a summer break and this year is no exception.

For 2014, September also sees the changing of the guard in terms of new chairmen at the helm of both sections. Alejandro has been in his new role for a few weeks now and from this month Ross takes over the reins in Aberdeen, following the successful tenure of Anthony Onukwu. Anthony bowed out in style last month with the SPE Aberdeen 40th anniversary dinner, which was an absolute triumph.

It was clear the 200 guests who attended the Aberdeen dinner thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were informed and entertained in equal measure, thanks to a very high-level panel session and also to a fascinating and witty keynote speech by 2015 SPE International president Dr. Helge Haldorsen (pictured on this month's cover).

The London section has renewed its evening presentation series for 2014/2015 and once again will return to the Geological Society where SPE members can be assured of hearing from outstanding speakers who will share knowledge and best practice for the benefit of all. We would commend these events – and also the Aberdeen dinners, of course – to all our members as valuable learning opportunities.

In this edition Glen Cayley, upstream director for Shell in the UK and Ireland, shares his views on the oil and gas industry and the role the SPE has to play in delivering the technology that will maximise the returns from the North Sea.

The interview makes for fascinating reading, not least Cayley's view that deeper integration of the subsurface disciplines will become more prevalent in the years ahead. His sentiments are aligned with our ethos to share, learn and challenge each other to consistently improve in our professional lives.

Rest assured there shall be ample opportunities via the London and Aberdeen sections for all our members to play a part in driving forward new engineering solutions.



Left: Ross Lowdon
SPE Aberdeen Chair 2014/15

Right: Alejandro Primera
SPE London Chair 2014/15

ABOUT US

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) is a not-for-profit professional association whose members are engaged in energy resources development and production. SPE serves more than 110,000 members in 141 countries worldwide. SPE is a key resource for technical knowledge related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry and provides services through its publications, events, training courses and online resources at www.spe.org

The SPE provides services through its global events, publications and website at www.spe.org. SPE Review is published 10 times per year by the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. It is sent to over 5,000 UK SPE members, and quarterly to an additional 7,000+ European members.

If you have read this issue and would like to join the SPE and receive your own copy of SPE Review, as well as many other benefits – or you know a friend or colleague who would like to join – please visit www.spe.org for an application form.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you need to change any of your membership details, please visit the **Update your profile** link at the foot of the homepage at www.spe.org

Wellbore surveying simplified

Aberdeen section chairman Ross Lowdon presented the SPE Aberdeen Simplified Series 2014 Lecture held on June 4, 2014.

Wellbore positioning is a complex and often misunderstood topic, it is, however, essential to efficient reserves recovery and wellbore construction. Geological targets are chosen and a surface location is selected, a trajectory is designed and offset wells are analysed to avoid unintended collisions.

In every step of this process wellbore surveying is the key to delivering the well successfully. As hydrocarbons become more difficult to exploit and existing fields mature, the size of geological targets reduces, the likelihood of hitting other wellbore and the costs of missing targets increases. For that reason an understanding of wellbore surveying, the errors associated with it and the techniques that can optimise geometric well placement are important to the industry.

The very need to survey a well was prompted by a boundary dispute between two oil producers in the 1890s and a whole industry in wellbore surveying has grown from then.

The need for wellbore surveys is considerable; hitting other wells while drilling is undesirable, in order to drill a relief well you need to know where the well blowing out is, you need to know that you have hit your reservoir, and where in the reservoir you are, so that the reservoir model can be correctly updated. All of these needs can be assigned to either safety or financial concerns. Surveying has an impact not only on well placement but equally the ability to run casing, completions, deploy ESP's successfully and generally reduce NPT in the well construction process.

Safety is, of course, critical to the success of any enterprise and avoiding other wells and drilling in the correct place is key to that. Surveying is at the key of the ability to understand both reserves and the ability to produce from them at an acceptable recovery rate. However, a large number of possible errors in wellbore surveying are poorly understood in the industry and while these can be addressed with current and future technology, the appetite for improved wellbore surveying practices is relatively low. This needs to change if the industry is to strive for the final recoverable reserves from brownfield sites and smaller greenfield opportunities.

• Ross is the head of the surveying domain in Schlumberger D&M globally. Working previously as an independent directional drilling and surveying consultant for clients globally, he re-joined Schlumberger in 2009 in his current position. He originally started his career as a hydrographic surveyor with Brown and Root survey in 1993, after completing a degree in land economy from Aberdeen University, moving on to Schlumberger and directional drilling in 2000. He has recently completed an MSc in Drilling and Well Engineering from Robert Gordon University and gained advisor status in Schlumberger.

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Society of Petroleum Engineers hosts workplace discrimination workshop

SPE Aberdeen, in co-operation with SPE International, will host a world-first event October 1-2 to discuss the topic of workplace discriminatory challenges specific to the oil and gas industry.

Breaking the Cycle of Discrimination – Workplace Challenges in the oil and gas industry premier international workshop will feature a keynote address by Minister for Energy Fergus Ewing MSP followed by speakers from a number of major operating companies, service companies, and industry bodies including Shell, ConocoPhillips, Total, Schlumberger, Halliburton, Baker Hughes, Decom North Sea and Oil & Gas UK.

The presentations will discuss critical diversity and discrimination issues and highlight how non-technical skills are of equal importance to those of the technical job functions.

The two-day workshop is set to attract around 150 managers from the international exploration and production sector. These professionals will come together to exchange ideas and discuss how the industry can develop into a more inclusive workplace.

Anthony Onukwu, SPE Aberdeen outgoing chairman, said: "SPE Aberdeen is spearheading this initiative because for many years we have recognised the need for a specific forum to focus on the issue of discrimination in the oil and gas industry.

"As the search for energy resources ever increases, this is an industry which now touches every corner of the globe, drawing upon skills across many geographical locations, cultures, religions, and genders."

"There is, however, still much progress to be made in terms of addressing these diversities and encouraging an inclusive workforce. For instance, the 2013 Global Diversity and Inclusion Report highlighted that from 3,000 respondents, 72% believe that oil and gas remains a male-dominated industry and that there is still a lot of progress to be made."

This event is indispensable to managers at every level as the challenge to attract, retain, organise and lead top talent continues to ensure that the oil and gas industry retains its reputation as a worldwide leader in technological innovation.

The workshop will address topics such as team dynamics, leadership and relationships and interactions between employers, employees, colleagues and contractors, focusing on how inequalities and prejudice can affect the global working environment.

Ella Minty, chair of the Another Perspective committee added: "This is an unique event that is the first of its kind in the oil industry worldwide. It is also the first that has been organised by the Aberdeen section in partnership with SPE International.

"Our industry is highly diverse and many organisations already take positive steps to ensure that discrimination is reduced, however there is still much to be done. By sharing best practice and also hearing from people who have had negative experiences, delegates will be provided with a powerful understanding of the issues we face."

The event will take place at Norwood Hall Hotel in Aberdeen on 1-2 October. Please visit <http://www.spe.org/events/14aas2/pages/about/index.php> to register before 19 September 2014.



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E936: Reservoir Engineering Principles and Practice
London, 24 - 28 November

for more information contact: **Emma Vaks** (e.vaks@nautilusworld.com)

Engineering a long-term future for the North Sea



Glen Cayley has enjoyed a significant career, with more than 35 years spent working for two of the largest oil companies in the world. As a senior executive with Shell he is well placed to offer SPE members expert insight on the new challenges to be found in the North Sea.



From the window of the top floor of Shell's distinctive operational headquarters in Aberdeen, Glen Cayley can look from his office across to a city that has, in many respects, transformed almost beyond recognition since oil was discovered in the North Sea more than 40 years ago.

The granite church steeples on the skyline predate the black gold rush, but at street level – or perhaps at supply-boat level – the impact of oil and gas is pervasive.

Cayley, a geologist by training, is now responsible for upstream production in the UK and Ireland. Shell was in at the beginning of exploration off the UK's eastern shoreline and it is clear the company still believes in a long-term future for the North Sea basin.

However, with all the easy oil having been removed and costs ever-increasing, Cayley states it will be technology and the skills of the engineering workforce that will enable the continuation of the industry in the region.

Speaking to SPE Review, as the Aberdeen

section celebrates its 40th anniversary, Cayley is keen to add some historical perspective on activities in the United Kingdom Continental shelf.

"There was Block 211/29/1 – which is one of the most famous hydrocarbon licences in the world – otherwise known as Brent. That really led to the opening up of the central and northern North Sea," he says.

Shell was amongst the pioneers. As well as Brent, Auk – which heralded the avian nomenclature the company continues to use to this day – soon became a major asset, despite initial worries.

"The first well was a real disappointment, it barely produced anything. The second well produced 50,000 barrels of oil a day. This was because of the limestone carbonate reservoir with all manner of cavernous porosity and storage capability. That field produced several times its original oil in place, because it was draining the underlying reservoir which contained an

additional half-billion barrels," he adds.

Cayley's own career began in 1978 with Esso (Exxon) in the joint venture with Shell in the North Sea. He spent a large part of his career with the American giant, rising through the ranks as the industry continued seeking new exploration frontiers around the world.

It is new techniques, technology and the application of great engineering by talented individuals working together, that will help extend the life of the UKCS, he believes. With regard to the role SPE can play in bringing about the new technological advances that will benefit the UKCS oil and gas industry, Cayley sees real benefits.

He says: "SPE provides fantastic support. It uniquely integrates the subsurface disciplines. The opportunities that are ahead of us in the North Sea are really around deeper integration of geology, reservoir engineering, production technology and drilling. SPE can force that with the programmes it has, looking at the value of

collaborative work environments and integrated work practices.

"It's important for technical staff to network, to have peer reviews by presenting papers at conferences and to co-create solutions, not just with their team, but more widely. It's all about the science and engineering and coming up with the right plan and right solutions."

Technology can be used to reduce costs, thus making marginal opportunities more viable. As a geologist, he believes developments in seismic surveys play a big part in future advances.

"Taking cost out of everything we do is a business challenge, but also a technology challenge. All the easy oil has been found. The breakthrough has got to come from better visualisation of complex geology, better predictions of what the drill-bit's going to find.

"HPHT is technologically important for the basin. Some of the highest pressure and temperature reservoirs in the world are in the central North Sea, and they're very, very difficult. Now we're looking at trying to drill them when they're partially depleted. That has to be properly managed.

"There have been tremendous advances in seismic technology to picture where the well bore integrity problems may arise. We've also developed cements with plasticity, which is really important in retaining integrity."

Cayley has stated in the past that operators need to make more of the North Sea, which is

also the key recommendation of the Wood Review. He believes more needs to be done by the industry as a whole to maximise returns and ensure longevity.

"The industry, through PILOT [formerly the Oil and Gas Taskforce], had started to address some of the key issues and challenges in the basin. However the scope of the Wood Review is more wide-ranging and, alongside the consultation on the fiscal regime, offers the most comprehensive approach to maximising the remaining opportunity from the North Sea's resources; estimated as 3-4 billion barrels of oil equivalent, or £200 billion, to the UK's economy. But we must act swiftly to grasp the opportunity now. We support the Wood Review's conclusions and the closer collaboration between industry and Government it advocates.

"On the fiscal regime we believe that as the basin continues to mature it will require a new approach to taxation; one that recognises the challenges of operating at this stage in the North Sea, providing a predictable environment in which to invest.

"So working in partnership with the Government is key – particularly in a mature basin. But, like any industry, we need to look at every aspect of how we operate our own assets to maximise value.

"At Shell this is forefront of mind as we, and our partners, look for growth opportunity for our assets in the region. It means using some of the


brightest minds in the industry to develop leading-edge technologies to lift production, and making smart choices about where we invest for the longer term."

Cayley cites SPE's commitment to youth and sharing knowledge with the new generation of petroleum engineers as another great strength.

He adds: "My first piece of advice would be 'do not be afraid to take a risk'. Properly managed, risk-taking is an essential part of day-to-day operations.

"Of all the risks we take, probably the lowest risk of all is the one we take with our young talent to take on more responsibility and empowering them to take more on."





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Integrated Petrophysics for Reservoir Characterisation (PP02)

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Carbonate Geology for Oil and Gas Exploration & Development (GG02)

Oct 12-16, 2014 – Dubai, UAE
Advanced Gas Condensate Reservoir Management (RE05)

Nov 02-06, 2014 – Dubai, UAE
Integrated Petrophysics for Reservoir Characterisation (PP02)


Nov 09-13, 2014 – Dubai, UAE
Carbonate and Fracture Petrophysics – A Roadmap (PP03)

Nov 09-13, 2014 – Abu Dhabi, UAE
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Society of Petroleum Engineers



Host Organisation

London Simplified Series

An introduction to exploration and production is being hosted by SPE London as part of the Simplified Series of lectures.

The one-day seminar takes place at the Royal Geographical Society, in Kensington, on November 18. The seminar is aimed at people working in the E&P environment, who are new to the industry and/or would benefit from a basic understanding of exploration and production processes and the key elements that make up oil and gas projects.

Attendees will attend a series of presentations by industry and academic specialists covering the subsurface petroleum geoscience and engineering disciplines. Presentations will be at a basic level and attendees will develop a good overall view across all upstream disciplines.

SPE members are encouraged to invite support staff from their organisations as a means of raising their general awareness of the industry. The seminar is suitable for people in, for example, technical, financial, human resources and administration functions.

Full details, including itinerary, agenda and booking options are available by visiting www.katemcmillan.co.uk

Decom North Sea boss addresses London meeting

SPE London's first evening dinner of the 2014/15 session welcomes the new boss of Decom North Sea, Nigel Jenkins, who will discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by the decommissioning process.

Mr Jenkins, who featured in last month's SPE Review, will examine the role Decom North Sea is playing in the decommissioning of North Sea oil and gas assets as they reach the end of their life.

The presentation will provide an introduction to the North Sea

decommissioning industry with an update on the current state of play, the Wood Review, the challenges and opportunities and lessons learnt, explaining the vital role Decom North Sea has in ensuring safe, efficient decommissioning solutions.

The dinner takes place on September 30, at the Geological Society of London, in Piccadilly and begins at 5pm. Following drinks and networking buffet the second presentation takes place at 7.30pm when Joseph Franz, vice president of engineering technology at Range Resources discusses shale plays.

For more information and to book a place please visit: www.katemcmillan.co.uk email – katespe@aol.com or call 07736 070066

SPE YP Bowling Competition

SPE London YP closed its 2014 social year in June with a bowling competition in central London.

The participants were welcomed to the Kingpin suite at Bloomsbury Lanes, Holborn, with refreshments on arrival prior to being assigned (randomly) to their respective teams.

Among the different participants, the winners were Helen Jones, reservoir engineer at Seven Energy, Andrew Theophilos, reservoir engineer at Nexen, Rory McArthur, graduate engineer at ERC Equipoise and Hrishikesh Chavan, student at LSBU. In addition, a special mention was given to the second and third teams and also to the most valuable player of the evening (highest individual score) Arash Fahadi, student at LSBU.

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(L to R): Anthony Onukwu, Dr. Helge Haldorsen, Ross Lowdon



Top left: The high-calibre panel featured leading industry figures, Top right: (L to R): Calum McGregor, Brenda Wyllie, Angus Warner, Karis Vieira, Ross Dornan. Bottom left: Samkesh Sundarbshwar, Manju Bhukya, Shankar Bhukya. Bottom right: Lovat McGregor and Carolyn Highland

Guests celebrate SPE Aberdeen 40th anniversary in style

SPE Aberdeen marked its 40th anniversary with a celebration dinner that attracted 200 guests, including leading figures in the oil and gas industry.

The evening showcased the industry's journey over the past 40 years and the impact the SPE Aberdeen Section has had upon the local industry and the wider Scottish community.

The black-tie dinner, held at the Chester Hotel, in Aberdeen's west end, included a fascinating panel session hosted by STV newsreader Andrea Brymer. The high-calibre panel included Trevor Garlick, regional president of BP North Sea, Glen Cayley, upstream director of Shell UK and Ireland, Gordon Ballard, VP industry affairs and chairman of Schlumberger UK, Peter Jones, managing director of TAQA and Jeremy Cresswell, editor of the Press and Journal's Energy.

The evening's keynote speech came from Dr. Helge Haldorsen, 2015 president of SPE International. Dr. Haldorsen, vice president of strategy and portfolio for development and production (North America) delivered a witty, entertaining summation of the past 40 years of the industry, which included references to dubious 70s fashions and the music of ABBA, whilst also highlighting the sterling work done by SPE. He also predicted a healthy future for the

industry and for Aberdeen's role in delivering value from the North Sea for decades to come.

Dr. Haldorsen said Aberdeen and the UK oil and gas industry "flew at the front of the V" in the 1970s, leading the way in pioneering field developments and technological advances that were as challenging as going to the moon.

He added: "You made the impossible possible."

Dr. Haldorsen said there were still an estimated 14-20bn barrels of oil still to recover, but that greater collaboration on a global scale would be required to provide the world's energy needs in the future.

"We are never going to run out of oil but cheap and easy oil has gone. Solar, wind and biofuel will only address five per cent of global demand 40 years from now. It will be oil and gas that we need. It is a growth industry for the next generation. We have to adapt and be safer, smarter, faster and cheaper. That is the challenge."

Praising the work of SPE Aberdeen, he said it was "a force for good" providing a great value proposition to the local community and would continue to focus on youth.

During the Q&A session Glen Cayley called on engineers to "innovate your socks off" to maximise the recovery from the North Sea.

"It's the people in this room who are going to continue to develop the skillset to unlock that 20bn barrels still out there."

Asked about the need for greater collaboration across the industry, Trevor Garlick said industry outsiders would be surprised at the level of collaboration: "There are huge opportunities to crystallise what we do to make it a little easier on ourselves."

Speaking about North Sea reserves, particularly in terms of UKCS, Peter Jones said: "There's a huge amount to play for out there. The challenges continue to be economic. We need to continue to focus on the basics, particularly cost control. We need to work more closely with the supply chain, but there really needs to be fiscal change."

Mr Garlick said: "In terms of future reserves, we're working hard to stem decline and investing heavily to bring on new fields. There is a huge recovery prize as well. It is so hard to find hydrocarbons in the first place that we just can't walk away at 35 per cent recovery. We should be pushing recovery as well as looking at discovery."

Gordon Ballard said that decommissioning presented a dichotomy. It would provide opportunities for contractors but added that the industry shouldn't be

rushing headlong into dismantling North Sea infrastructure when there were still reserves to recover.

Trevor Garlick emphasised the need for a strong independent regulator to work with industry and government: "We don't require a lot more regulation, but we do need more facilitation."

With regard to the work of SPE, Glen Cayley described it as an invaluable professional body.

He added: "[SPE] is an enabler to bring in professionals and is a truly international organisation. Setting aside where you're from and the colour of your skin, it's about getting under the skin of some of the top problems that we are facing in this industry."

Jeremy Cresswell added: "It's a very important body."

Gordon Ballard said: "The position it has is second to none globally. The North Sea is going to need efficiency and smart thinking – that's what engineering is about."

Guests enjoyed a first-class dinner and entertainment from the Cairn String Quartet.

In addition, numerous prizes were presented by Dr. Haldorsen, before Ross Lowdon, the new Aberdeen section chairman, brought proceedings to an end with the vote of thanks.

Aberdeen hears more about shale plays

The Distinguished Lecturer season for 2014-15 kicks off in Aberdeen this month, with Joseph H Frantz, Jr, discussing shale plays.

With greater focus than ever being paid to shale as a source of long-term gas supply, SPE Aberdeen's September evening meeting (September 24) will examine how technology, governments, regulators, academia and the public are affecting the world's energy supplies.

Mr Frantz is vice president of engineering technology with Range Resources Corporation, will discuss how other countries may use the knowledge developed in North America to jump-start their own shale plays.

Although technical advancements are largely responsible for unlocking the potential of shale gas, the industry's co-ordination with a broad set of stakeholders arguably have equal – and perhaps more influence – on implementation of new shale developments. As such, they will increasingly impact the industry's ability to more fully develop these resources.

The presentation focuses on key technological advancements that drive shale gas development, but also on the important aspect of how the industry is working with governments, regulators, academia, and the public more collaboratively to best maximise the benefits, while fostering the use of best practices.

Mr Frantz has been involved with studies on many shale fields across the US and has worked in every facet of upstream development, authoring or co-authoring more than 40 publications and taught an industry school on developing shale reservoirs.

The lecture takes place at Aberdeen's Douglas Hotel, Market Street from 6.30pm. For more information and booking details visit: www.rodgerandco.com

SPE Young Professionals join forces with colleagues

Young professionals from SPE Aberdeen are coming together with members of the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) and Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) to host a joint networking event on October 22.

The event will be focused around the non-technical skills needed to succeed in the oil and gas industry for young engineers and students.

SPE Aberdeen YP chair Ross Taylor explained: "With hundreds of students and young engineers coming to Aberdeen every year, three of the major professional societies and institutes have come together to create a joint event that will allow young members including those at university and those who are young professionals to meet and interact in a way that has not been done before."

The event will take the form of three short presentations on networking, communication and

personal skills that will help young professionals advance in the industry.

Guest speakers at the event will be Ian Sharp (chief operating officer for Fairfield Energy), David Lynch (vice president of BP Reservoir Management North Sea) and Andy Ewens (AMEC regional operations director). Then there will be an ice-breaking session for delegates. Catering will be provided at the event.

The event will take place on 22 October at Centrica's Aberdeen office at the IQ Building, 15 Justice Mill Lane and begins at 6pm.

Register online through the SPE website; visit: www.rodgerandco.com

Family barbecue at Kippie Lodge

SPE Aberdeen is hosting a family barbecue as part of its 40th anniversary continuing celebrations.

The event takes place at Kippie Lodge, at Milltimber, Aberdeen between noon-4pm on September 13. In addition to ample good food there will be lots of activities for all the family, including a Wild West bouncy castle, face painting, target air-rifle shooting and air hockey.

SPE chairman Ross Lowdon said: "Whether you're a young professional, a long-standing supporter of SPE Aberdeen activities, or a recent member who'd like to get to know us in an informal setting, we'd be delighted to see you there."

Tickets for adults cost £10, with children free to attend. For more booking details and further information, please visit www.rodgerandco.com

Upcoming events – 2014

SPE Family Barbecue – Kippie Lodge, Milltimber, Aberdeen, noon-4pm: 13 September.

Booking and info:
www.rodgerandco.com

SPE Evening Dinner – Introduction to shale plays. Guest speaker Joseph H Frantz. Aberdeen Douglas Hotel, Market Street. 6.30pm: 24 September.

Booking and info:
www.rodgerandco.com

Breaking the Cycle of Discrimination – Workplace Challenges in the Oil and Gas Industry: 1-2 October, Norwood Hall, Aberdeen.

Registration deadline is 26 September.
Info: www.spe.org/events/14aas2

SPE Aberdeen Summit Series Seminar – Drilling Automation: 2 October, Aberdeen
Booking and info:
www.rodgerandco.com



Top: Anthony Onukwu was honoured for his contribution from new chairman Ross Lowdon. Bottom: Tracy Clark, Dr Andrew Smith, Diane Wood

n's

SPE Aberdeen Section Award

1 SPE Aberdeen Service Award

- a) Shankar Bhukya
- b) Ella Minty

2 SPE Aberdeen Outstanding Young Professional Award

- a) Ross Taylor
- b) Nadezda Shnuchkina

3 SPE Aberdeen Outstanding Student Chapter Award

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

4 SPE Aberdeen Outstanding Student Member Award

Vijay Anne

5 SPE Aberdeen Student Chapter Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award

Ibiye Iyalla

SPE North Sea Regional Awards

SPE North Sea Health, Safety, Security, Environment and Social Responsibility Award

Donald Dobson

SPE North Sea Formation Evaluation award

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