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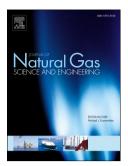
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

1	A simplified method for predicting the penetration distance of cementing
2	slurry in gas hydrate reservoirs around wellbore
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8	Abstract: The permafrost region in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau of China is abundant in natural gas
9	hydrate (NGH) resources. In this region, there is a great probability of meeting gas hydrate when
10	conducting conventional oil and gas well cementation operations. Because of the relatively developed
11	fractures and not very high pore pressure(usually 3.5-3.6 MPa) in the gas hydrate reservoirs in this area,
12	it is easy for the cementing slurry to penetrate into the gas hydrate reservoirs under the pressure
13	difference during cementing process, undergo hydration and release heat, thus causing hydrate
14	dissociation and cementing quality reduction or even failure. Therefore, it is necessary to first determine
15	the penetration distance of the cementing slurry in the gas hydrate reservoirs to evaluate the effect of
16	hydration of the cementing slurry on the hydrate stability in the reservoirs. In this paper, theoretical and
17	experimental methods for determining the penetration distance value of cementing slurry were
18	established for the first time. The permafrost layer in the Muli area of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was
19	selected as the research object and the proposed computational model was verified by using low-density
20	cementing slurry and common cementing process experiments. The results show that the penetration
21	distance calculated by the established computational model is in good agreement with that measured in
22	the experiment, and the computational model can provide technical support for the cementing process
23	design in gas hydrate occurrence area.
24	Key words: gas hydrate, cementing, cement hydration, penetration distance, computational method,
25	simulation experiment
23	simulation experiment
26	1 Introduction
27	The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China is the highest (average altitude: 4,000-5,000m) and largest
28	(1.5×10 ⁶ km ²) permafrost region at mid-low latitudes in the world and is abundant in natural gas hydrate
29	(NGH) resources ^[1-3] . In November 2008, the Qinghai Coal Geology Bureau of China successfully
30	obtained NGH samples by drilling in the Muli area in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (Figure 1), marking the
31	first time NGHs were found in a permafrost region at mid-low latitudes within the land territory of China
32	and the world ^[2] . In recent years, with the increasing activities of oil and gas resource development

conducted in permafrost regions, the numbers of related well drilling and completion operations have

been growing, and the probability of encountering NGHs during drilling process has increased $^{[2,\,4]}$.

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