

Griffith Gets Productive

Schramm T130XD/LoadSafe Case History

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“Safer.”
“More productive.”
“Transports easier.”



That's what Ronnie Griffith of Griffith Services Drilling LLC has to say about his Schramm Telemast T130XD Rotadrill and LoadSafe. Ronnie has been in the drilling business for himself since 2005. But his oil and gas experience goes way back. Ronnie started as a rig hand in 1983 drilling in Kentucky and Tennessee. CFO Vicki Guess has been in the business since 1980.

Right now, Oak Ridge, Tennessee-based (near Knoxville) Griffith Services has a staff of 18 people and are concentrating on horizontal drilling for gas in the Chattanooga Shale. The Devonian Chattanooga Shale is an organic, hydrocarbon rich shale found throughout Eastern Tennessee and Kentucky. This productive play is located beneath the Mississippian Fort Payne Limestone at a depth of between 2,000 and 4,000 feet. The shale thickness ranges from 30 to over 200 feet, horizontal wells with up to a 3,000 foot lateral are being drilled.

Their customers past and present have included Ryholland Fielder, Atlas Resources, Energy

Associates, and Nami Resources (Vinland Energy). Using Range III casings from 13-3/8" down to 4-1/2", they're able to drill and complete wells quickly. According to Griffith "the additional pullback – of 130,000 pounds and 50 feet total head travel– on the Schramm gives us more drilling capacity in the horizontal wells. And with the LoadSafe handling unit on the T130XD, it allows us to drill more efficiently than before."

Despite the high pullback and range III capability, the Schramm knocks down to a very maneuverable 42-3/4' length with just a six-foot overhang on the front. "We move to a new site every six or seven days. Set up, knockdown and transit times are not productive and we appreciate that they are minimized with our Telemast Rotadrill," says Guess.

About two years ago, they added the Schramm LoadSafe to their rig. The LoadSafe is a pipe handling system that incorporates right into the T130XD and allows operators to feed pipe virtu-

ally hands-free. "We found the LoadSafe to be faster, it uses less labor, and with hands off the pipe, there's a lot less chance of anyone getting hurt," explains Griffith. "It's a good invention as far as we are concerned. It lets us handle any kind of pipe or drill tools . . . flush or bottleneck pipe . . . whatever technology we want – different sizes and types of drill pipe and casing."

"We really have to say something about their customer service while we're at it," says Guess. "They've been very good to us, changing what we needed; going out of their way to make sure we're happy. We had really full access to their engineers and technicians – that's pretty rare."

Where is Griffith Services Drilling headed? According to Griffith, he's looking to develop some shale's on his own. Griffith has a geologist on staff to help identify viable sights. "I want to continue horizontal drilling. It's the way of the future. Our plans are to add another rig; probably a Schramm T200XD . . . something that will let us drill even farther and faster. There's a lot of gas out there and we'd like to help get it out."



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