

Invitation



Drilling challenges in the Dutch subsurface

Date: 28 - 29 January 2026

Location: EBN - Daalsesingel 1, Utrecht

This 1½ day workshop is intended to significantly increase the awareness of all aspects of drilling hazards in the well planning and drilling operations phase.

The workshop focuses on the drilling hazards mitigation approach for well trajectory planning and well design, the pitfalls, learnings and best practices. This workshop is tailored for the Dutch subsurface and learnings can be applied to conventional oil & gas, geothermal and CCS wells.

The workshop includes work-sessions and an interactive core viewing session, going through the Dutch stratigraphy and focusing on drilling hazards in each formation, discussion of casing points, and operational challenges

while drilling. It includes cores of swelling shales, halite, highly mobile salts, a ZEZ3C raft, conglomerates, fractured carbonates and more.





Workshop content

- **Overview** of the stratigraphy and related drilling hazards; the importance of knowing the details, the lateral variations and selecting the right offset analogues.
- **Shallow geohazards** - how to de-risk and case study examples.
- **The uncertainties of seismic** acquisition, processing, interpretation and its implications.
- **Pore pressure** prediction and borehole stability – borehole breakout assessments, drilling window, mud engineering and best practices.
- **Zechstein drilling hazards** – overpressures, stringers, carbonate fractures, squeezing salts and clays, how to plan a well trajectory through the Zechstein and best practices.
- **Well trajectory** planning and well engineering.
- **Drilling and engineering standards** – awareness and why do we have these?
- **Management of Change** in planning and operations - and why it is of critical importance.
- **Safety** – the personal side. It is not only numbers and processes.
- **Integrated recent case story** – drilling hazards in recently drilled wells – we are still learning.
- **Work sessions & interactive core session**

Target audience: Any (subsurface) person involved in the technical aspects of designing and drilling the well. Exploration / Development colleagues involved in either well planning, drilling operations and abandonment. These include: geologists, geophysicists, well engineers, petrophysicists, seismic processing, Quality Insurance staff, geomechanics, well operations, production technology engineers, reservoir engineers from CO₂, H₂, geothermal and gas industry.

Organised by: EBN in collaboration with TNO

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