

## **The evaluation of production potentials of demethanation wells utilizing "hot-wire" gas detection methods**

*Brian J. McMahon*

*Noval Technologies Ltd., Halifax, N.S.*

In the fall of 1980, Noval Technologies began a program to evaluate the potential of a hot-wire (catalytic filament) gas detection unit as a tool to determine the production potentials of demethanation wells. The unit was set up to monitor the gas response of the drilling fluid while drilling six boreholes, three of which were wireline cored exploration holes and three of which were rotary percussion drilled production wells. A hot-wire detector was also used to determine the gas content and relative rates of desorption of

cuttings samples from the production wells.

The results have been successful not only in indicating the production zones, the seam gas content, and the rates of production of seams relative to one another, but have also proved extremely effective for the assessment of drilling problems while on site, and, geologically, for indicating highly fractured zones, fault zones, lithologies and seam correlations.