Mitigating Bias, Blindness, and Illusion in E&P Decision Making

Course Description

Decisions in E&P ventures are affected by Bias, Blindness, and Illusion (BBI) which permeate our analyses, interpretations, and decisions. This course examines the influence of these cognitive pitfalls and presents techniques that can be used to mitigate their impact. *Bias* refers to errors in thinking whereby interpretations and judgments are drawn in an illogical fashion. *Blindness* is the condition where we fail to see an unexpected event in plain sight. *Illusion* refers to misleading beliefs based on a false impression of reality. All three can lead to poor decisions regarding which work to undertake, what issues to focus on, and whether to forge ahead or walk away from a project.

This course (1/2 to 3 days) begins by examining the types of BBI that affect us. Awareness exercises, videos, examples, and mitigation exercises help illustrate how these manifest themselves and how we can lessen their impact. We then present oil and gas case studies that show their impact on decision-making and ask participants to identify the types of cognitive errors contributing to project outcomes. The course concludes with a mitigation 'toolkit' that can be applied to project work.

Course Outline

1. Introduction
2. Bias
   a. Anchoring, Availability, Confirmation, Framing, Information, and Overconfidence
   b. Motivational Bias
3. Blindness and Illusion
   a. Perceptual Blindness
   b. Illusions of Knowledge, Potential, and Objectivity
4. Case Studies
   a. Exploration
   b. Appraisal/Development
5. Mitigation 'Toolkit'

Who Should Attend

The course is intended for anyone interested in understanding and lessening the impact of these cognitive errors including field personnel, technical and non-technical staff, and executives.

Recipients of Training

In addition to open enrollment courses held across North America and internationally, the BBI course has also been taught internally for the following companies: