

Enhanced Pipeline Pigging Using MX 6-1033 as a pigging tool

BACKGROUND

The wells in the area are shallow low pressure producers that bring large amounts of sand and oil with the gas. Because of the poor access (winter only) all the solids and fluids are flowed through the pipelines to the compressor station, this can be up to 15km at some places.

ISSUES

A producer constantly had issues with pigs getting stuck in pipelines due to sand and oil deposits, causing down time in production, lost revenue and the added cost to the recover the pigs. The sand also caused under deposit corrosion from not being cleaned out properly and severe erosion problems.

ANALYSIS

Multi-Chem's field technical team and central corrosion research worked to develop an oil soluble corrosion inhibitor to resolve the problem. The positively charged portion of MX 6-1033 reacts with negative charges on the solids causing a slurry to form between the sand oil and water. The aromatic solvent helps clean the oil deposits from the pipe walls.

RESOLUTION

Before launching a pig operations at the producer batch 20L of MX 6-1033 in front of the pig and push it down the pipeline. If pigging facilities are not available then MX 6-1033 can be added continuously at the well head keeping the sand from settling in low spots of the pipeline

DELIVERED VALUE

Since beginning this procedure, the average time it took to recover pigs from launch decreased by 50%. And a pig has not gotten stuck due to sand or oil since the program began in March of 2009. The producer estimated that the gained 5 e3m3/month from preventing lost production, and enhanced the integrity of the pipeline system.

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