

MX 892-5 Controls Hydrate Deposition in Pipeline

Cost Effective Hydrate Control & Savings in Trucking Costs Realized

BACKGROUND

This producer was injecting 165 litres/day of methanol (maximum pumping capacity) and still experiencing hydrate issues in the pipeline and in the pig receiver. They also injected 1000 litres of methanol in front of every pig weekly. This was causing extra costs with pressure trucks and methanol needed to break hydrates. This is also a remote location adding to the costs incurred to transport methanol to the site.

ISSUES

This oil and gas producer had hydrate issues in the pipeline which would plug off with hydrates on a regular basis. Every time they send a pig through the pipeline (once a week), there would be hydrates showing up in the pig receiver.

ANALYSIS

Multi-Chem's local technical team received the data for pressures, temperatures, gas analysis, production of water, oil and gas to determine quantity of methanol needed to prevent hydrates. We determined that 900 litres/day of methanol was needed to prevent the buildup of hydrates in the pipeline. The producer was seriously under-injecting methanol, which explained the failure to inhibit hydrates.

RESOLUTION

MX 892-5 injection was initiated into the pipeline at 165 litres/day (maximum pump capacity). The MX 892-5 ran for a week with no problems. A pig was sent without the methanol in front of it and the pig came in very clean with no hydrates in the pig trap. The operators have not tried to optimize the rate yet as frost is still in the ground. They feel the rate is already optimized, considering that the theoretical usage rate for MX 892-5 was estimated at 360 litres/day.

DELIVERED VALUE

The producer has not had any issues with hydrates since the MX 892-5 hydrate control program was initiated. No hydrates or slush show up in the pig receiver after pigging the pipeline. The cost savings have been in the reduction of pressure trucks and methanol used for pigging. The operator time required to fight hydrates has also been significantly reduced. An additional benefit is that the separator further downstream is running more efficiently because there are no longer slugs of hydrate flowing into it.

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Global Technology Center

World Houston International Business Center
15865 International Plaza Drive, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77032 USA

(800) 805 9178
(325) 223 6200
(325) 942 7500 FAX

www.multichem.com