

Middle East

SandRight® solids fallback preventer improves runlife 380+ % on sandy wells

Operating expenses, deferred production significantly reduced on three wells

CHALLENGE

Sand produced from the unconsolidated reservoir caused random performance levels and early ESP failure for an operator in the Middle East

SOLUTION

Designed the SandRight solids fallback preventer to:

- Stop sand from flowing in the reverse direction
- Create a “leak off” effect for a wide range of sand concentrations and flow rates
- Support through-tubing treatments

RESULT

Run life improved as much as 380+ %:

- Well one from 184 to 68 days
- Well two from 190 to 396 days
- Well three from 90 to 440 days

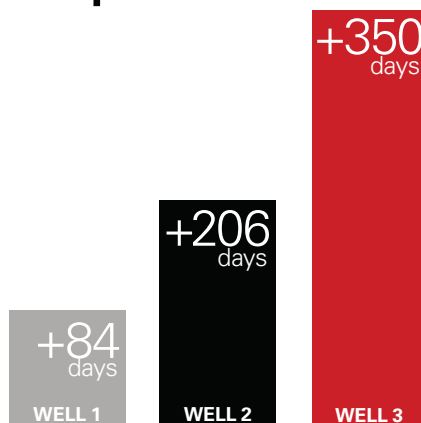
Overview

An operator in the Middle East sought to improve its return on investment (ROI) by reducing deferred production and operating expense (OPEX) through increased electric submersible pump (ESP) run life and drawdown. Large quantities of sand produced from the unconsolidated reservoir were identified as a primary cause of irregular performance and early ESP failures.

Challenge

Sand produced from an ESP will naturally fall back during shutdowns, settling on the first stages of the upper pump. When the ESP system is restarted, this accumulated sand can cause a hard startup, overstressing the shaft and leading to premature mechanical failure. The operator identified three wells with a history of premature failure due to frequent shutdown and hard restart episodes, with one well experiencing a broken pump shaft. Previous mitigation efforts were ineffective and used tools that required a costly rigless job for ESP flushing.

Improved ROI



Solution

The SandRight® solids fallback preventer was installed as a pilot in the three previously identified wells. SandRight deters damaging solids from entering the ESP during power shutdown events. Its innovative internal design forms a sand bridge in the annulus of the tool, stopping the sand from entering the pump and preserving the ESP system. During startup, the pump fluid will flush the sand from the tool and carry it back to the surface. Unlike other solutions in the industry, it can execute through-tubing chemical treatments while resisting paraffin/scale buildup using superior materials. Drawing from cross-product line experience in fracking and fluid-proppant transport, the tool was designed to be compact and easily integrated into our ESP production system.

Result

All three pilot wells could restart without signs of a hard start or damage to the ESP. Runlife for the wells improved by 380+ %, saving the operator costly downtime and deferred production. This efficient, reliable, long-lasting sand management tool delivered the operator's goal to maximize asset value.

- Well one run life increased by 84 days
- Well two run life increased by 206 days
- Well three run life increased by 350 days

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