Case Study - 4

AICV® installation in South America reduces more than 90% of gas production in a multi-layered formation

An oilfield located in South America produces from a multilayered structure with API gravities that varies between 14° to 24°. Water injection has been utilized recently to maintain reservoir pressures and improve the recovery factors. Gas migration and water breakthrough have resulted in excessive production of unwanted fluids, leading to problematic well shut-ins and expensive workovers to re-establish production.

Challenges and Objectives

Cased and perforated vertical wells are drilled in this field to access more than 400 ft of net pay from several producing intervals, separated by shale. A commingled production strategy is used, where oil is recovered from 2 main formation units using artificial lift. This inherently creates a challenging production environment, as injection water and/or formation gas can unpredictably breakthrough in any of the formation layers, impacting well performance.

Solutions

The AICV® is the only autonomous device that can shut-off and effectively manage gas and water without interventions. After a careful evaluation, the operator decided to retrofit an existing well with the AICV® technology. InflowControl worked closely with the operator to design and retrofit the well with nearly two dozen AICV® with premium screens using swellpackers for compartmentalization.

Results

The well was brought to production and the immediate results showed a GOR reduction of 85%, which has further increased to 95% in under a year of production. The oil production returned to pre-gas breakthrough levels and has slightly increased over time with higher ESP pump frequency. The well has not required any further interventions and the ESP pump has been stable in steady conditions. The AICV® technology has not only restored stable oil production, but it has also helped the operator meeting gas-flaring quotas and reducing OPEX costs. Based on InflowControl estimations, the operator has reduced its emission levels by >17,500 ton CO2/year, which is equivalent to the emissions per year of more than 3,800 cars.

LOCATION
South America

NUMBER OF WELLS

OPERATOR

Mid-size International E&P

DEPLOYMENT Onshore

RESERVOIR

Sandstone reservoir with heterogenous layered structure separated by shales

COMPLETION

4-1/2" AICV® with premium screens and swellpackers

Results



-90%
Reduced gas production



Stable oil production without well shut-ins



-17,500 tpa CO₂ reduction









