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Field testing shows sleeved sinkerbars further reduce failures

In their new, patent-pending Polybars, Flexbar, Inc. has combined two things that have been proven to reduce tubing leaks, rod parts and pump repairs. Over a 2.8 year test, Polybars (sinkerbars sleeved with ultra-high-density polyethelene) have reduced total failures per well per year from a high of 3.60 before the test to just 0.40 during the test—and this on wells that were already using uncoated sinkerbars.

Sinkerbars without this coating had already proven their worth. Over the last 18 years, rodstrings with a properly designed section of unsleeved sinkerbars have been shown to have less downstroke buckling. This has resulted in reduced rod-on-tubing wear and extended tubing and rod life.

Add to this the fact that, in the last five years, tubing coated with high-density polyethelene showed increased wear-resistance and rod-on-tubing wear and extended tubing life, and you have the concept of coating the sinkerbars themselves.

Flexbar selected five producing wells to test their idea. These wells were chosen because each was experiencing tubing leaks in spite of the producers' attempts to reduce them. Each well was already using uncoated sinkerbars. The wells ranged in depth from 3,750 to 8,000 feet, and range in production from 70 barrels of fluid per day (BFPD) to 871 BFPD.

The failure rate of these wells (including tubing leaks, rod parts and pump repairs) was tracked beginning at three years prior to the test. Expressed as failures per well per year (FPWPY), the third year prior to the test the rate was 1.60; the second year prior to the test it was 2.40 and the year before the test it was 3.60.

In contrast, both the first and second years of the test, the failure rate dropped to just 0.40—less than half a failure per well per year.

In fact, no tubing leaks occurred in tubing protected by Polybars. Six leaks occurred, but five of them were above the Polybars and the other occurred at an unknown depth. Two of the five wells *experienced no tubing leaks at all.*

Through these tests, Flexbar's engineers have noted several benefits of Polybars as compared with coating the inside diameter of the tubing:

Inspection of polyethelene on the Polybar is possible with each rodstring pull;

Internal diameter of the tubing is not reduced, which means;

Wells can produce with full size, insert rod pumps and

Damage to

polyethelene from the use of fishing tools in tubing is eliminated.

Polybars are currently available in two sizes: a 1-3/8 inch OD bar with a polyethelene sleeve that increases the OD to 1-1/2 inches, weighing five pounds per foot; and a 1-1/2 inch OD bar sleeved to 1-5/8 inches OD and weighing six pounds per foot. Custom sizes will also be available. The patents pending are on both the product and the process.

Flexbar invites you to test Polybars on a few wells and see how they can cut your production costs.

Flexbar, Inc. designs and manufactures sinkerbars. They offer other products along with custom engineering services and rod string analysis. The phone number is 550-4920.



Sinkerbars sleeved with ultra high density polyethelene reduce tubing leaks even more than unsleeved sinkerbars, saving producers thousands of dollars.