

Combination Barriers for P&A: Flexible/Impermeable plus Solid-State

Complementing, not replacing solid state barriers.

Emma Lees Resolute Energy Solutions Ltd. April 2022

Flexible, impermeable seals Base concept

- Superabsorbent Expanding Polymer Grains (EPG)
 - · deployed in particulate form to absorb specific fluids,
 - quickly forms an impermeable, flexible, self-healing and pressure resistant seal.

Reality: seal made up of many EPG elements, retaining significant expansive energy. May be capped with cement. EPG ENERGISED CONTI

CONTINUED FLUID CONTACT FURTHER ENERGISES EPG





Original size. Can range from microns to centimetres in diameter.

Most applications <0.5mm.



EPG can absorb/adsorb up to 400 times its original weight in fluid.

Becomes soft at this point, enabling gel sweep applications.



Ideal expansion between 5 & 30 times original weight.

Enables optimal strength with retained expansive energy & self-healing capability.

Case Study – problem

- Client had SCP problems on two wells
 - During well abandonment operations, existing and new cement barriers failed to contain gas from the formation below, resulting in pressure in the upper annulus.
 - Attempts to cement had been repeated and there was serious concern about the lack of length for a final cement barrier to surface



BEFORE

Case Study – solution

ASSURE TREATMENT

- With tubing already retrieved, the inner casing was perforated above the failed cement barrier,
- Resolute's Assure® Expanding Polymer Grain (EPG) solution deployed into the annulus, chased with cement to balance fill the inner casing.
- Assure® EPG successfully secured the well, preventing the flow and pressurised build up of gas.



Case Study – result

- Extended period of monitoring to ensure the operational success
- Casing then perforated above the Assure® layer, and a further cement plug successfully set.
- Resolute successfully resolved the issues
- Plans underway for further wells.



AFTER

Conclusion



- Dual barrier with a flexible, impermeable seal and a solid-state barrier (cement/resin/alloy)
- Reduce the volume of retrieved tubulars
- Reduces risks of emissions from wells

- Enables a range of functions
 - reservoir isolation
 - micro annuli isolation
 - control line sealing (internal/external)
 - dormant barrier placement
 - rig-less abandonment via the capability to seal control lines and leave tubulars in place

