

Rod Pumping “Unpumpable” Wells  
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Unconventional producers challenged by low oil prices, continuously seek new opportunities to reduce LOE and increase profits.

Many new wells are initially equipped with ESP's to achieve the high production volumes required. These ESP systems often experience short runtimes due to frac sand production and severe gas interference associated with producing new unconventional wells. The short runtimes combined with the high cost of ESP repairs force production engineers to closely monitor production volumes for the earliest opportunity to convert from ESP to SRPS.

Well depth, deviation/tortuosity and the high production volumes result in very high downhole friction in the SRPS contributing to pump, rods and tubing failures. For this reason, many wells are considered “unpumpable” with SRPS until production volumes fall below the 400-500 BPD range.

This presentation will demonstrate how combining new and existing SRPS technology can greatly expand the production range in these wells, up to 1000 BPD, while reducing equipment failures and increasing overall system efficiency.

The engineered design and application of these technologies will allow engineers to transition away from ESP to SRPS much sooner in the life of the well, resulting in considerable LOE savings and increased profits.