

### Gas Lift to ConocoPhillips – Value of Gas Lift on Conventional and Unconventional Reservoirs and the Influence of New Technologies William Hearn ALRDC Gas Lift Workshop June 20-23, 2022







### **Presentation Agenda**

- Acknowledgements
- Overview of Gas Lift usage
  - Strategy
  - Results
  - Challenges
- Current technology deployments
  - Software/Modelling
  - Hardware





# Gas lift usage historically and at ConocoPhillips today.



### BOEPD by Year and Lift Type





ALRIX





# Gas Lift Strategy Progress and Challenges Summary

- Typically first lift in for high GLR Unconventional wells (EF, Delaware Basin, Bakken, Montney) – Increase MTBF from 12-16 Months (ESP), and 24 Months for Rod Pump up to >48 Months for gas lift In high rate applications has required the use of annular and tubing flow gas lift.
  - In some cases high pressure gas lift (HPGL) as helped in delivering early production rates (upcoming) slides)
  - Longevity of gas lift valves (reliability) and check valves (Norway) remain priorities but have been more dependable when partnered effectively with our vendors.
  - Temperature changes over time (upcoming slides)
  - Current major focus on GL usage optimization impacting compression(\$).
- Applied in challenging downhole conditions (high GLR, severe deviation, solids, etc) in Midland Basin but default is still ESP to Rod Pump
- Gas lift vendor partnerships are critical!







### Gas Lift Usage optimization

- Introduction of pilot valves, plunger lift, and intermittent gas lift widespread to EF.
- Reduction of gas lift usage typically by 50%
  - Plunger Lift related to total GLR requirements (5 Mcf/bbl)
  - Intermittent Lift (Pilot and Manual surface control) around 10 Mcf/bbl
  - Rodless rod pumps also being deployed to reduce this requirement further (<1 Mcf/bbl)</li>







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# Summary of technologies ConocoPhillips is piloting or has piloted in the Gas Lift Space

- Surface controlled gas lift
- Deep gas lift (lifting at the toe of long horizontal wells)
- Surfactant assisted gas lift.
- Annular flow and High Pressure Gas Lift
- Gas Lift Optimization and Analytics Tools (GLOAT) (Automated surveillance)
- Automated Gas Lift Optimization (AGLO) (Automated step rate testing)
- Variety of full integrated production modelling tools
- Electric drive compression ( $CO_{2e}$ ) reduction
- Rodless Rod Pump (Gas driven)
- Improved gas lift valve designs



mated surveillance) ep rate testing)





### Surface controlled gas lift

- Continue to deploy each of the technologies as they reach TRL's indicating ready for field testing
  - We have partnered on some with other operators to share costs.
- Testing typically done on L48 (Low cost) environments with a big piece of the value associated with higher cost environments (Alaska, Norway)
  - Learnings have been very useful in understanding temperature profiles over time.





Temperature and Pressure by Valve Depth

Date and Time: 2020-12-22 02:20:00

(GL: 0 mscf/d, Oil: 0 bbl/d, Gas: 0 mscf/d, Water 0 bbl/d)

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# Deep Gas Lift

- Applied in MB and Canada and previously Niobrara
  - Primarily for higher perm unconventionals more sensitive to back pressure.
  - Toe down uplift observed
  - Stability improves during annular flow time.







Ref	Description
1	2-3/8" SPM – Tubing Injection GLV's
2	2-3/8" Closed Sliding Sleeve
3	2-3/8" X Profile
4	2-3/8" Internal Gas Lift Mandrels (x2)
5	Bull plug



### Surfactant Assisted Gas Lift

- Focused on reducing slip and gravity pressure gradient.
- Has improved production rates in some cases and has helped to deepen injection point also improving production rates.
- Some improvement on Gas Lift injection rate requirements.
- With practice and focus we have managed to improve usage requirements both on surfactant and defoamer to improve economics.





6/28/2022



### GLOAT, AGLO and Integrated Modelling Tools

- Nearing 90% of all wells have some form of automated model workflow occurring everyday on gas lift wells
- Tools do some degree of surveillance modelling (if the predicted pressures and rates don't match actual they are flagged)
- Has been very useful in optimization and trouble shooting.
- Coupled with AGLO for rate testing and further trouble shooting.



B101

B102

Type to search in list

MIDAL FEDEDAL COM 501

est Valve	Multi-Point Injection	Not Injecting @Lowest	Injecting @Top Valve	No Down-Hole Injection
	90	108	156	151
	Wells	Wells	<sup>Wells</sup>	<sup>Wells</sup>

SNAP Model Build Date	DPR Prod Date	Valve	Force Balance	Valve Status	VPC	Choke %	Avg Casing Pressure	Avg Tubing Pressure	Injection Gas	Gas	Valve Gas	Valve Gas %	Mandrel Type	Mir Op
		10	634	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		9	615	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		8	586	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		7	550	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		6	505	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		5	452	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		4	392	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		3	323	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		2	246	Closed	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		1	0	Orifice	0		695	782	7	1,145	0	0%	Side Pocket	
Auto-Match		13	779	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	
2020-09-09		12	813	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		11	816	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		10	801	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		9	784	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		8	758	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	
		7	724	Closed	0		481	586	459	853	0	0%	Side Pocket	

### Lowest Open Valve Taking Lift Gas by SNAF





### Production Gas Lift and Formation Gas Rates



### SNAP Gas Lift Input Data

Production Date
Ambient T
Avg Casing P
Avg Tubing P
Total Oil
Total Water
Total Gas
Injection Gas
OII API
Reservoir P
Fetkovich C
Fetkovich N
Gas Specific Gravity
Injection Gas Gravity

File URI UNC Pa







### Annular flow and High-Pressure Gas Lift

- A tool in our toolbox for lower GLR wells (<2000) to avoid ESP early life failure.
- Our approach as been for it to be early life up to the first year then proceed to normal GL operations to reduce compression cost.
- Reduces early life lifting costs on average by \$2 BOE.



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