

5 JUNE 2022

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM



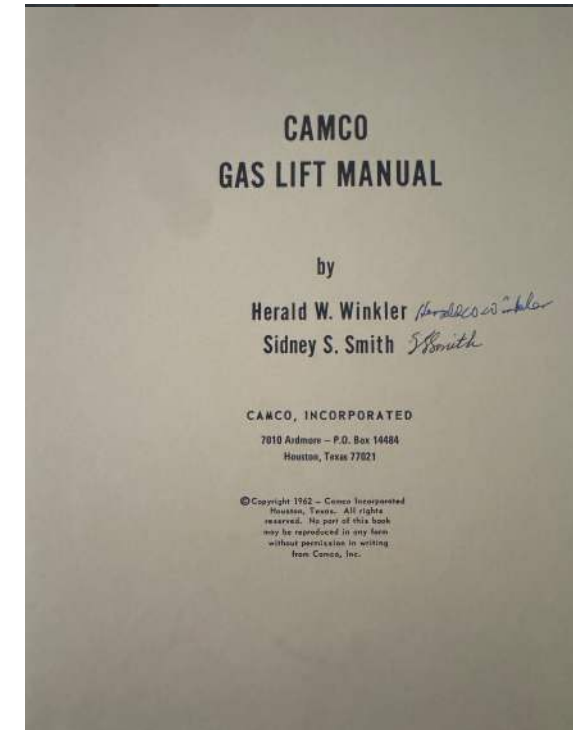
# LESSONS LEARNED FROM A DECADE OF GAS LIFT IN THE PERMIAN

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Greg Stephenson, Chief Production Engineer



# IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I'M REALLY INTO THIS

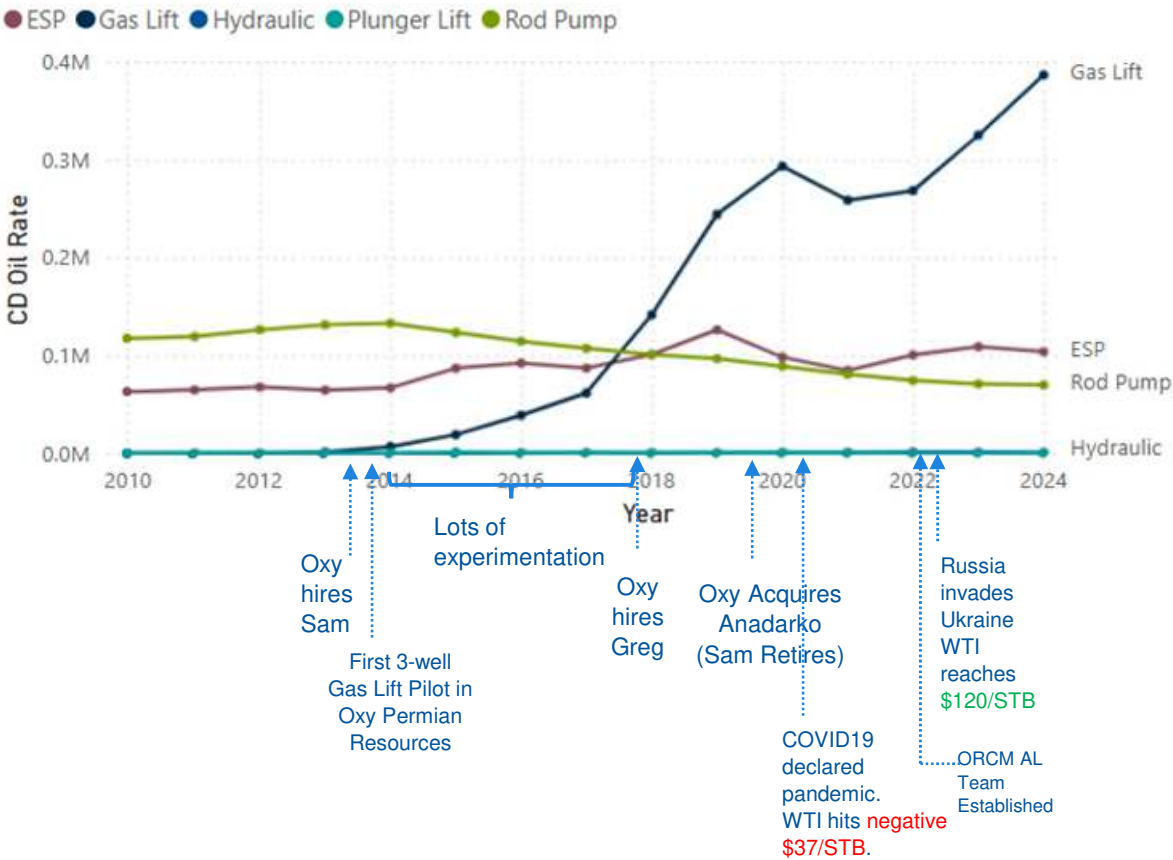


# OUTLINE

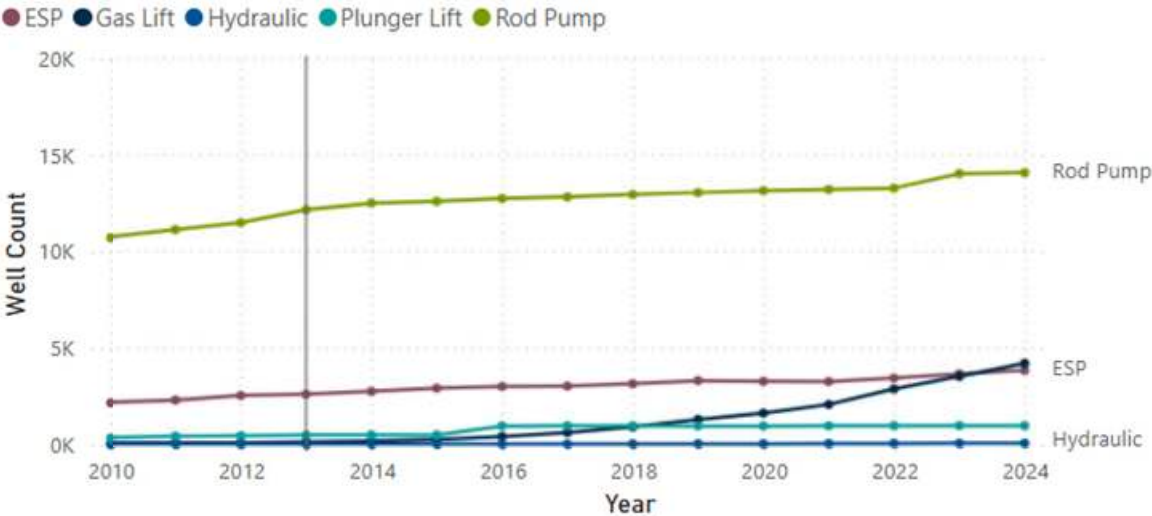
- Historical Lift Usage
- Why gas lift?
- Challenges
- How we made the transition
- Lessons Learned

# ARTIFICIAL LIFT USAGE IN THE PERMIAN

CD Oil Rate by Year and MOP



Well Count by Year and MOP



# WHY WOULD ANYONE USE GAS LIFT IN THE PERMIAN?

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Gas Lift most suitable when:

- Reservoir fluid has high gas content
- ~~Well has good reservoir productivity (PI)~~
- ~~Reservoir pressure can be maintained~~
- Low wellhead pressures can be achieved ?
- Fluid has entrained solids
- ~~Wellbore workover cost is high (offshore, remote operations)~~

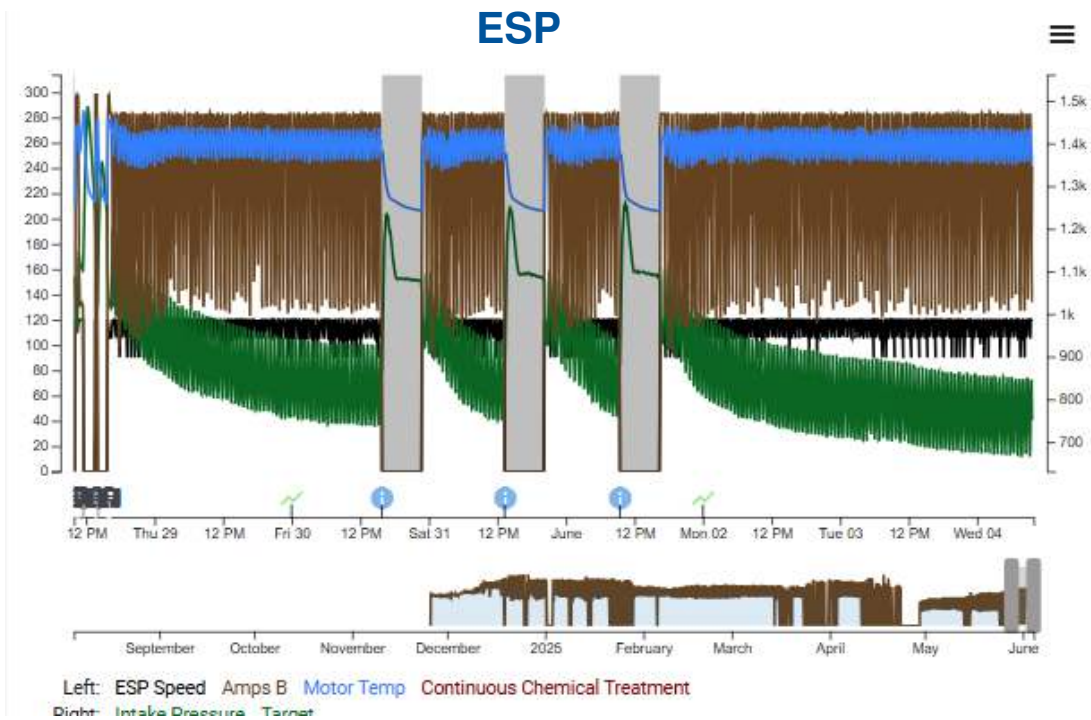
Other advantages:

- Tolerant of high deviation/DLS
- Can produce over wide range of production rates

# THIS IS REALLY HARD TO PUMP!

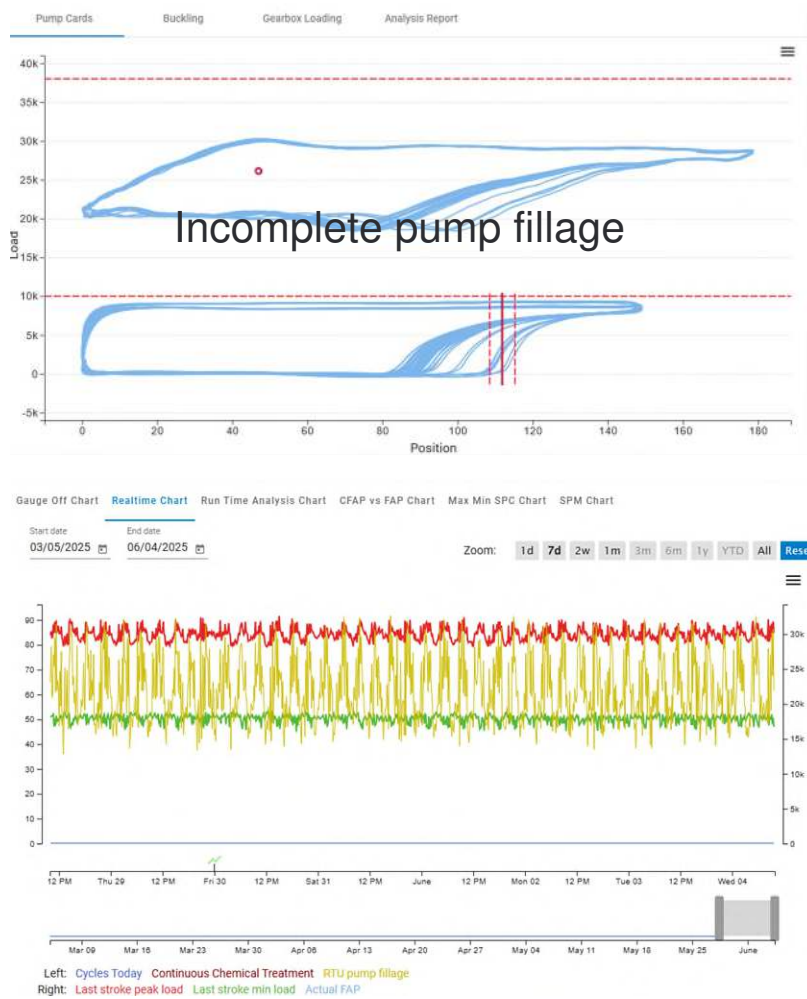


# GAS INTERFERENCE ISSUES



ESP run life will be significantly impacted due to all the shutdowns and motor temperature spikes. The cost impact is not only lost production but needed manpower with each shutdown.

## Sucker Rod Pump



# GAS LIFT IS LIKE A HONEY BADGER

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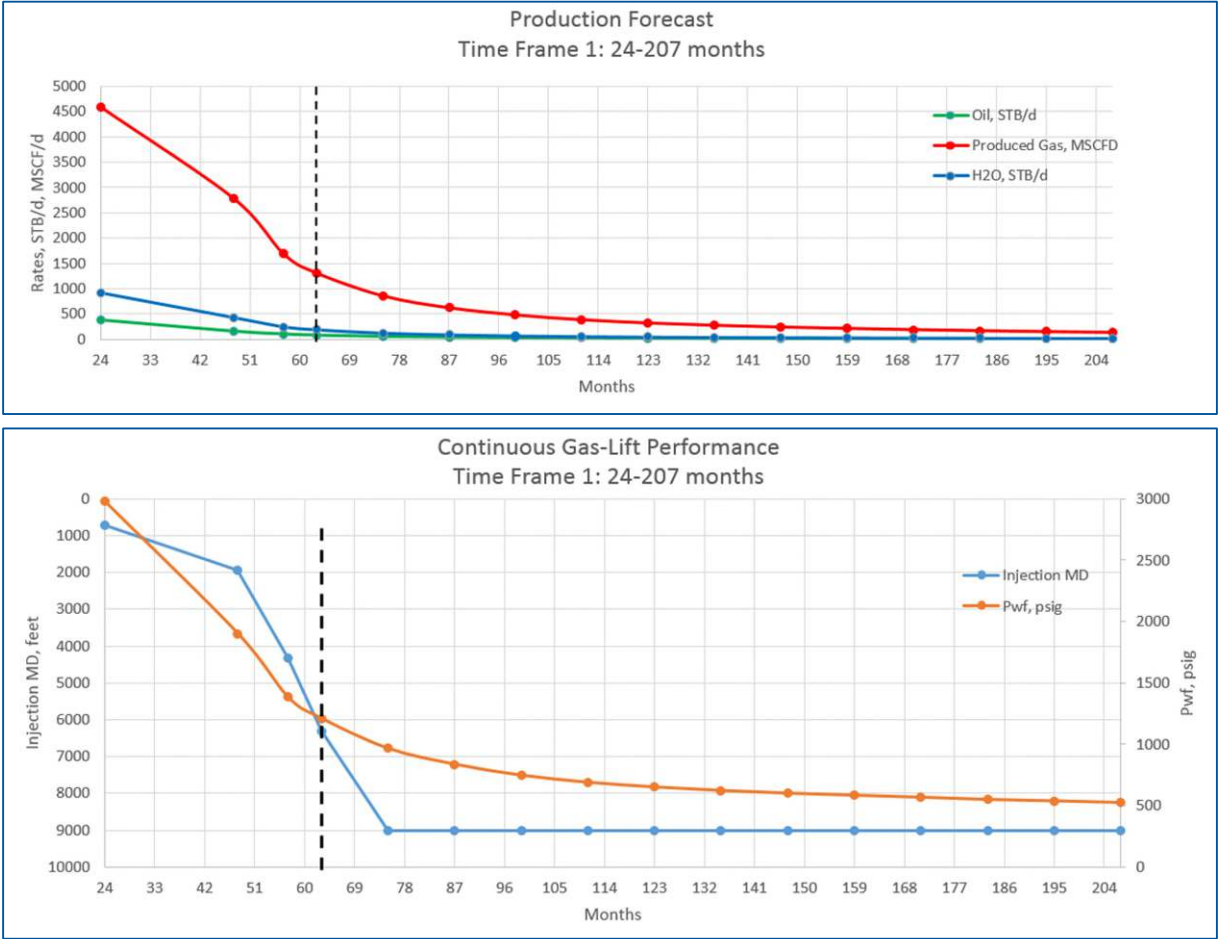
Also: Gas Lift works even when it's broken.



# CHALLENGES

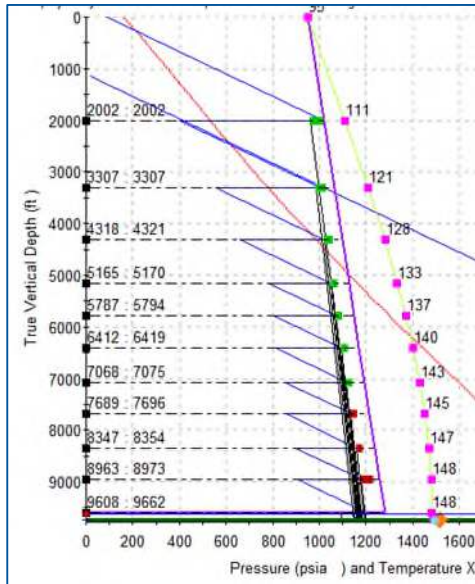
- Lack of surface infrastructure
- Lack of local knowledge
- Lack of qualified service personnel
- Access to equipment
- Remote locations
- Unpredictable well performance

# MORE CHALLENGES

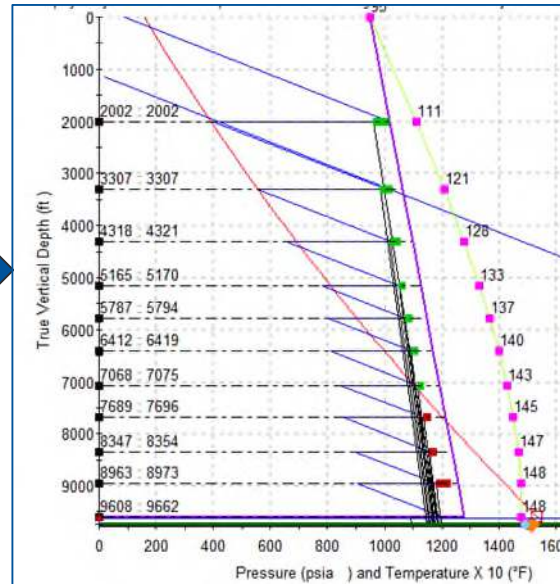


# MORE CHALLENGES

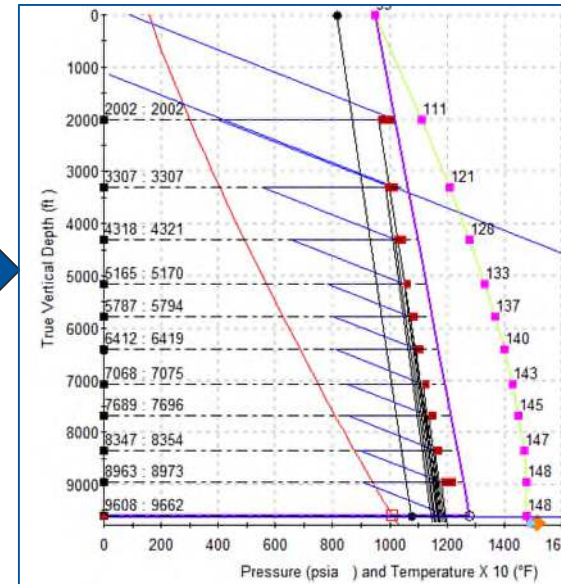
11



6 mos.



12 mos.

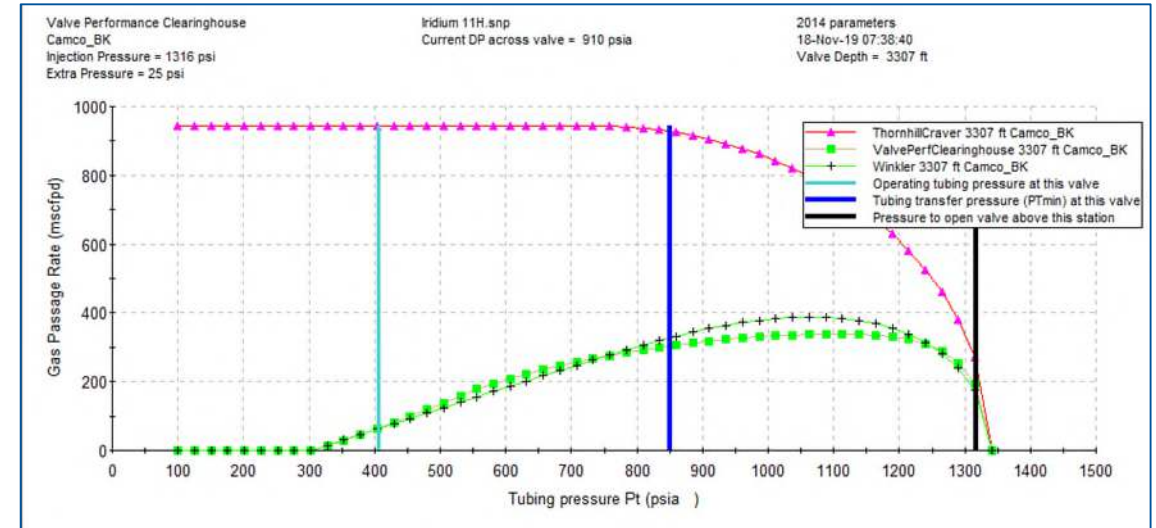


24 mos.

# MORE CHALLENGES

## Valve Reliability Issues

- Flow Cutting
- Throttling / Chattering
- Bellows Failures
- Plugging
- Elastomer Failures



## Reduced lift efficiency?

- Deepening lift depth not practical
- Multi-point injection inevitable
- Is this a big deal?

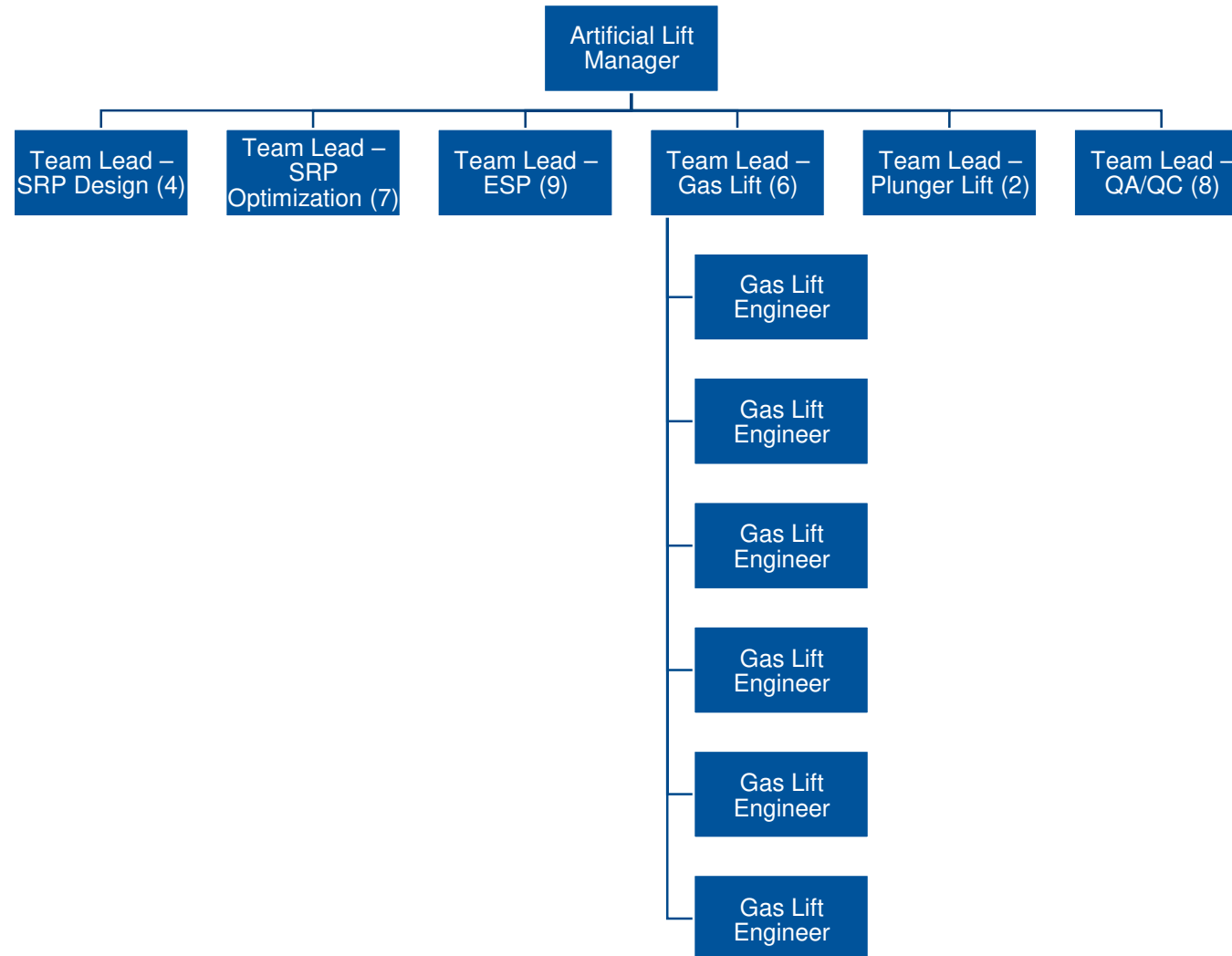


# HOW WE MADE THE TRANSITION

- Focused support
- Training
- Standards / Operating Guidelines
- Supply Chain Management
- Automation
- Surveillance
- Experimentation

# DEDICATED AL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

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# HOW DO YOU BECOME AN ARTIFICIAL LIFT SME?

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- Is working for a service company a requirement?
- Can operators grow them from scratch?
- Are petroleum engineering programs providing adequate exposure to AL?

- Gas Lift Operations
  - 2-day course for operations personnel and non-PEs
  - Delivered at Midland Training Center
- Gas Lift Fundamentals
  - Comprehensive 4-day course covering all the basics from AL selection to system design
  - Target audience: production engineers
- Advanced Gas Lift
  - 3-day course covering advanced topics such as true valve performance, intermittent GL and RCFA
  - Prerequisite: Gas Lift Fundamentals + 1 year of soak time



# OXY ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## ROTATION MODEL



EXAMPLE 1

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	Grad / Placement
Field Role #1	Field Role #2	Graduation and Placement in PE or FE Role

EXAMPLE 2

Field Role #1	Field Role #2	Graduation and Placement in PE or FE Role
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*\*Rotations and length will be dependent on internship, BU assignment, and schedule.*

Discussion with each participant at end of first year to determine preliminary career path.

Sample Programs for Incoming College New Hires

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	Grad / Placement
Field Prod. Engineer in Pecos (Well Performance)	Production Engineer in Platteville (WO & Compl Specialist)	Graduation / Facilities Engineer in Greenway
Field Prod. Engineer in GOM-Marco Polo	Field Production Engineer in GOM-Lucius	Graduation / Production Engineer in Oxy Woodlands Tower
Field Facilities Engineer in Carlsbad (Construction Specialist)	Facilities Engineer in Levelland	Graduation / Facilities Engineer in Greenway
Field Mechanical Integrity Engineer in Midland	*Asset Integrity Engineer supporting Central Function in Greenway	Graduation / Asset Integrity Engineer in ORCM

*\*Some programs may include a specialty rotation to a specific discipline. Options for these specialty rotations would be discussed during the interview process or at the end of your first year/rotation.*



## Technical

- First lift selection / timing
- Design
- Data Management
- Surveillance
- DIFA/RCFA
- Equipment selection / acceptance criteria
- When to perform lift revision
- Numerous others...

## Operational

- Installation
  - Running side-pocket mandrels or conventional mandrels as part of new completion
  - Installing gas lift valves using slickline
  - Installing retrofit (i.e. coiled tubing) gas lift strings
- Commissioning
  - Initial unloading
  - Returning wells to production after shut-in periods
- Retrieval
  - Retrieving gas lift valves via slickline
- Recompletion
  - Pulling tubing to repair HIT failures, replace conventional mandrels, etc.
- Surveillance
  - Running pressure / temperature surveys (both flowing and static)
  - Acquiring acoustic fluid levels
  - Performing CO2 tracer surveys
  - Tagging fluid with slickline

Well Name:		Avogato 30 314H														
API Number or Unique Identifier:																
Field or Reservoir:		Red Tank														
Note: It is extremely important that the Ptro and sealing integrity of the valve be tested as received from the well and before disassembly. Do not attempt to repair the valves before final inspection.																
Valve ID:		GLV #1	GLV #2	GLV #3	GLV #4	GLV #5	GLV #6	GLV #7	GLV #8	GLV #9	GLV #10	GLV #11	GLV #12	GLV #13	GLV #14	GLV #15
Installation Data																
Date Removed from Well:	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025	2/20/2025					
Date Inspected:	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025	3/12/2025					
Date Installed in Well:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Order Pulled from Well:	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1						
Measured Depth:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
True Vertical Depth:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Valve Specifications																
Manufacturer:	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford	Weatherford					
Valve Type:	Orifice	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO	IPO					
Valve Model:	RO-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1	R-1					
Part Number:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Serial Number:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Valve OD, inches:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Latch Type:	BK	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Latch Material:	316 SS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Port Size, 1/64":	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"	16/64"					
Ratio of Areas (As/At):	N/A	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.166					
Choke installed?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No					
Choke Size, 1/64":	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Valve Body Material:	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS	316 SS					
Seat Material:	Standard/IM	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten C	Tungsten Carbide					
Valve Packing Material:	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene	Neoprene					
Observations																
General Condition:	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	Low Pressu	Low Pressu	Low Pressu	Low Pressure					
Inlet Port Condition:	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK					
Outlet Port Condition:	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded	Eroded					
Valve Body Condition:	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK					
Upper Packing Cond:	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK					
Lower Packing Cond:	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	Damaged	OK	OK	OK	Damaged					
Latch Condition:	OK	OK	Faulty Clea	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK					
Functional Test																
Original Ptro @ 60F:	Orifice	1130	1130	1135	1140	1145	1155	1165	1175	1180						
Ptro as tested:	Orifice	1110	1110	1120	1130	1125	1120	1125	1115	1120						
Temperature, test ra:	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F	60° F						
Leakage Test:	N/A	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail						
Teardown Analysis																
Evaluation Form:	GLV #1	GLV #2	GLV #3	GLV #4	GLV #5	GLV #6	GLV #7	GLV #8	GLV #9	GLV #10	GLV #11	GLV #12	GLV #13	GLV #14	GLV #15	
Comments																
Gas lift valves Seven through Ten were found to have seat leaks and low opening pressure during testing procedures. Check valves Three, Four, and Ten were found to have significant flow cutting and material loss of their internal components. The latch ring of valve number Three was found to be inverted at the time of removal from the pocket, reported "being easy to extract." No installation information could be provided by the manufacturer or found in the Nexus.																



[← Back](#)

Install

Racker

### Tubing

Mandrel &amp; Valve

### Downhole Gauge

### Failure

### Accessories

Attachments

### Configuration

## Reason for Pull

Reason for Pull

## WELL OPTIMIZATION OR RECOMPLETION

Specific Season

### LIFT REVISION

Component

Subcomponent

Failure Category

Failure Descriptor

Failure Cause

### Failure Cause Specific

NO FAILURE

Item

Comments

JOB COMPLETED TO FACILITATE CONVERSION TO GAS STORAGE WELL, NO FAILURE. TBG SHOWED PITTING BUT NO HOLES. VALVES SHOWED SOME WEAR, BUT NO FAILURE.

Well Servicing Pull Job

26 Feb 2025 - GAS LIFT DESIGN CHANGE - e9VHm

## RIG PULL REPORT

Component Name	Location - MD (ft)	Pull Observations	Installati... Date	Primary Failure

Job Driver

#### PROACTIVE WORK/EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

**Job Driver Definition:**

Any WM job that has planned/unplanned significant proactive equipment replacement or work not associated with failure. This will be more than replacing a few rods or joints of tubing. Examples are: Change out rod taper/string due to age/corrosion Change out 1000'+ of tubing due to age/wear/corrosion Rod taper design changes Bit run/ Tag TD /Clean out

# SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

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- Focused contracts with clear technical requirements
- Manufacturing & Service Center Audits
- API/ISO Standards baked into contracts and audit plans
- DIFA/RCFA
- In-house support from each key vendor



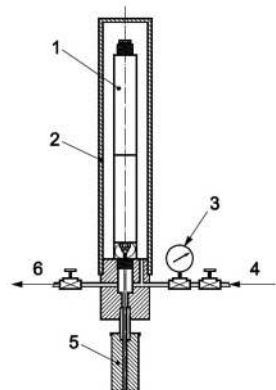
# OXY'S NEW ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

## API SPEC 19G2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition – Functional Grade F2

Table C.1—Testing Requirements

Flow-control Device Group and Type (See 6.1.2)	Design Validation Test and/or Device Functional Test	Annex	Design Validation and Device Functional Test Requirements for Each Flow-control Device Grade							
			V3 Basic Grade	V2 Intermediate Grade	V1 Highest Grade	V0 Severe Service	F3 Basic Grade	F2 Intermediate Grade	F1 Highest Grade	F0 Severe Service
I IPO Balanced IPO IPO w/ choke	Interface	D	D.2.1	D.2.1	D.2.2	D.2.2	—	—	—	—
	Insertion	E	E.2	E.2	E.2	E.2	—	—	—	—
	Probe or travel	F	F.2	F.2	F.2	F.2	—	F.6.2	F.6.3	F.6.3
	Load rate	F	F.3	F.3	F.3	F.3	—	F.7.2	F.7.3	F.7.3
	Flow	G	—	G.2.2	G.2.3	G.2.3	—	—	—	—
	Back-check	H	H.2.2	H.2.3	H.2.4	H.2.5	H.3.1	H.3.1	H.3.2	H.3.3
	Open and close	I	I.1.2	I.1.2	I.1.2	I.1.2	I.2	I.2, I.3.1	I.2, I.3.1	I.2, I.3.1
	Actuation life cycle	J	—	—	J.2.2	J.2.2	—	—	—	—
	Erosion	K	—	K.2.3	K.2.3	K.2.4	—	—	—	—
	Shelf	L	L.2.1	L.2.1	L.2.1	L.2.1	L.3.2	L.3.2	L.3.2	L.3.2
	Port/seal leakage rate	M	M.2	M.2	M.2	M.2	M.3	M.3	M.3	M.3

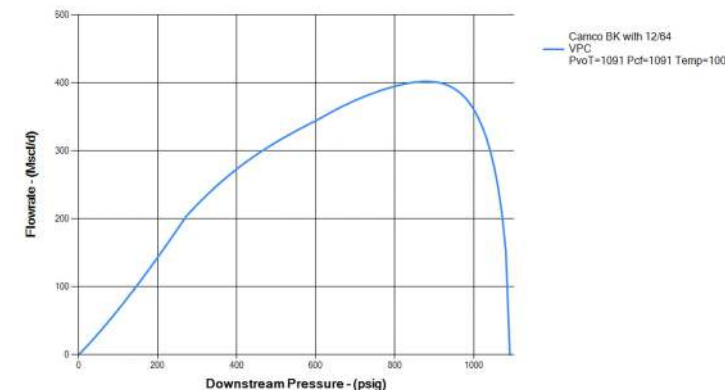
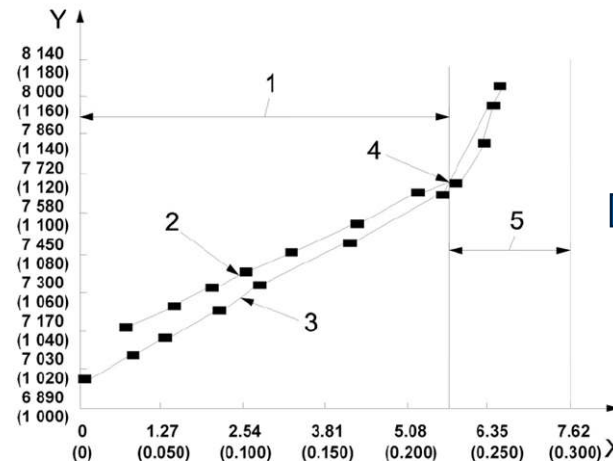
- **Probe Test**: 5% of any job lot (or 3 valves)
- **Load Rate**: Determined from probe test.
- Back-Check: 100% of every job lot
- **Open and Close**: 100% of every job lot
  - (used to determine effective Ap/Ab Ratio)
- Shelf Test: 100% of every job lot
- Port/seal leakage rate: 100% of every job lot
  - In closed position, valve shall not leak more than 35 SCFD.



Key

- 1 flow-control device
- 2 tester
- 3 pressure gauge

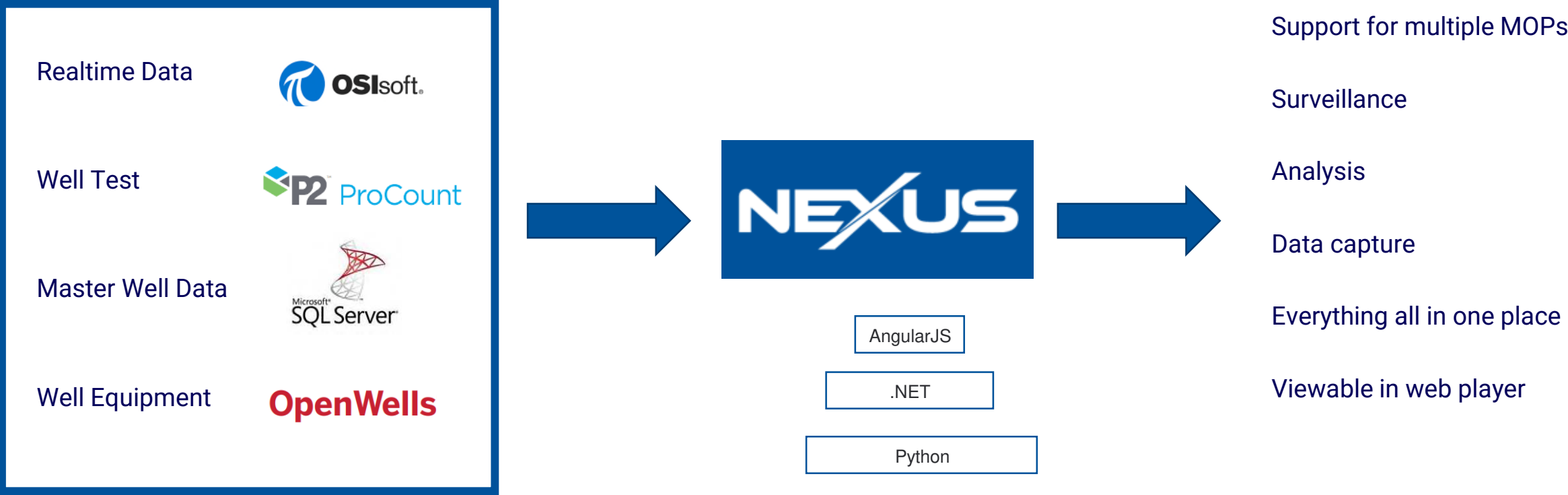
- 4 tester gas
- 5 LVDT
- 6 bleed



# AUTOMATION

- Extensive instrumentation
- Auto-chokes on every well
- Automatic well testing
- Standard equipment configuration for PLCs and RTUs
- Leveraging IIOT devices and cloud computing for closed-loop optimization, flare mitigation and other advanced features

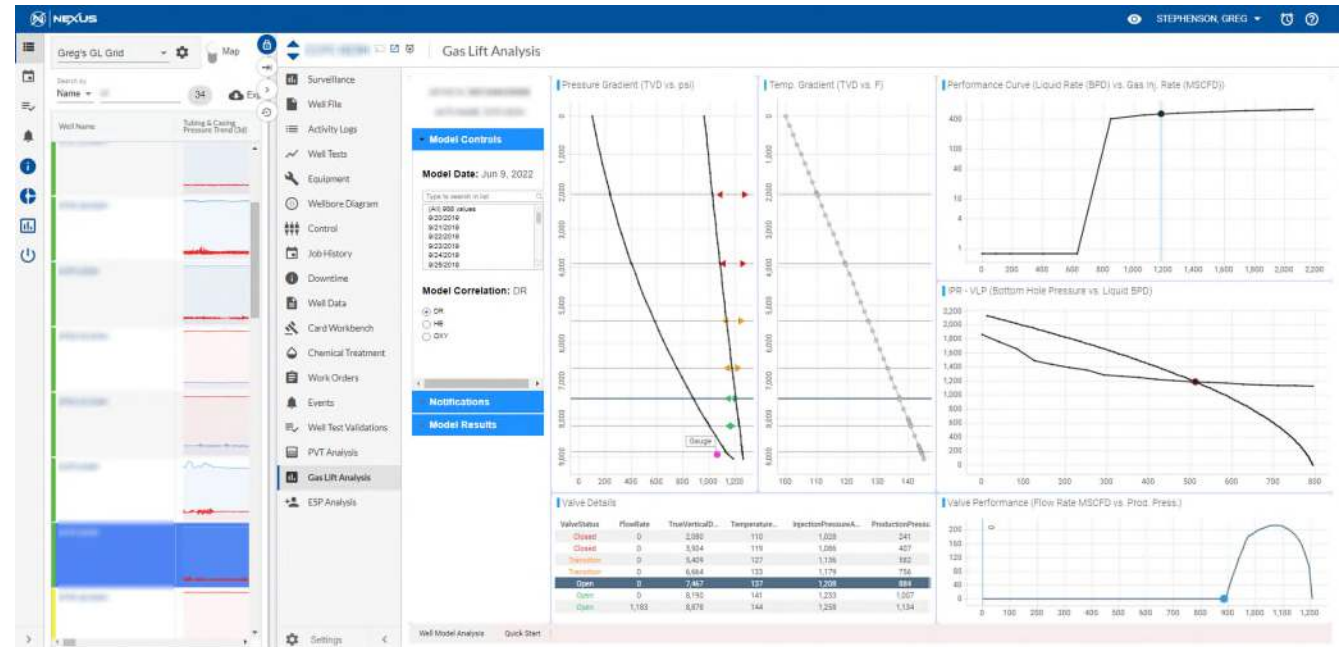
# SURVEILLANCE





# NEXUS OFFERS A WEALTH OF GAS LIFT SURVEILLANCE TOOLS, INCLUDING:

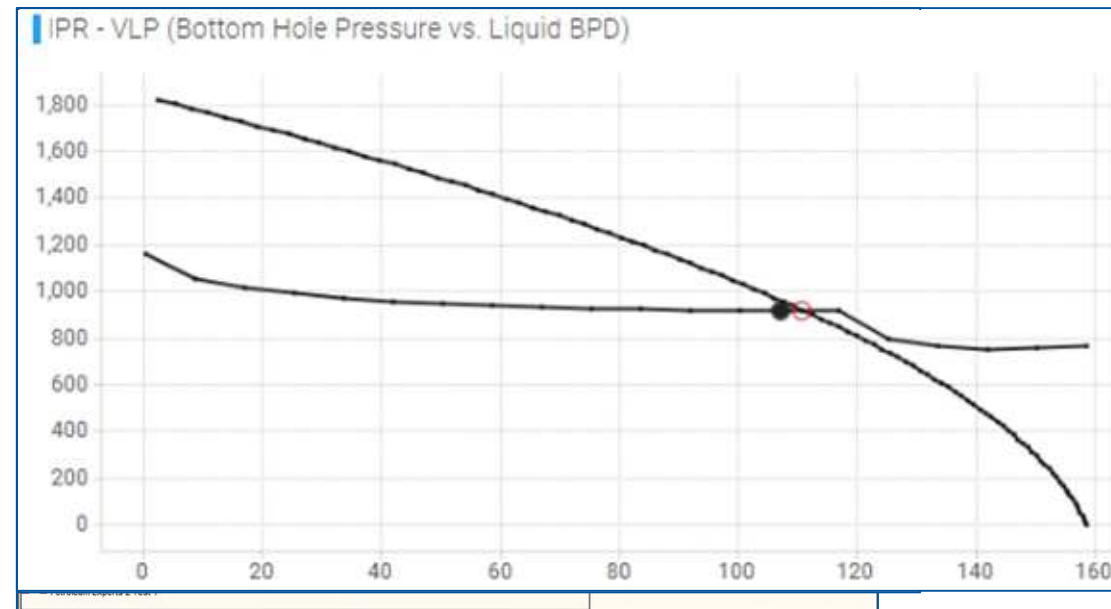
- Screening tools / management by exception
- Trending
- Well Tests
- Fluid Level History
- Job History
- Activity Log
- Downtime Reporting
- Failure Analysis
- GL Analysis Dashboard



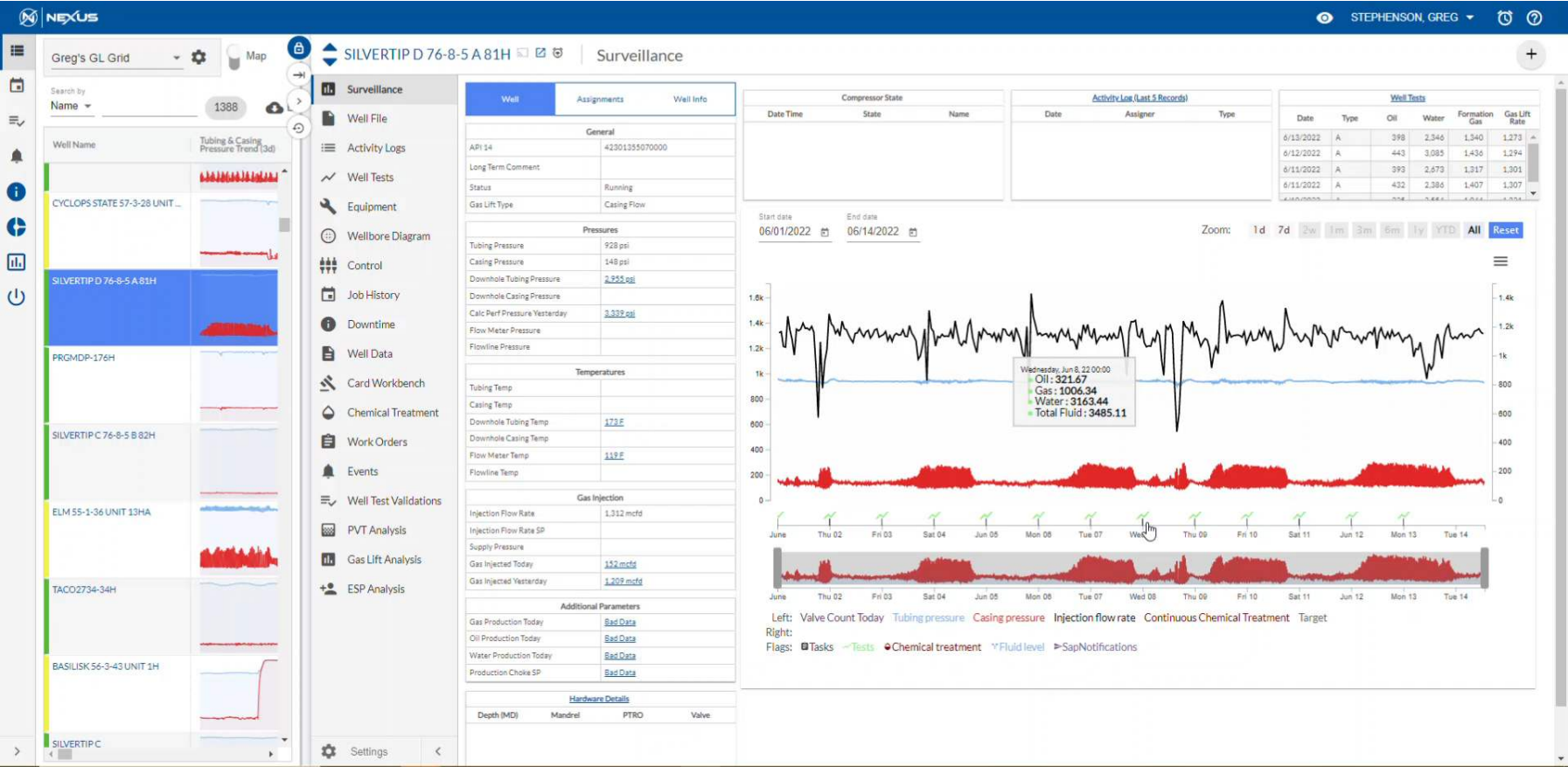
# AUTOMATIC MODEL GENERATION

Once data is populated in Nexus, models can be generated automatically through:

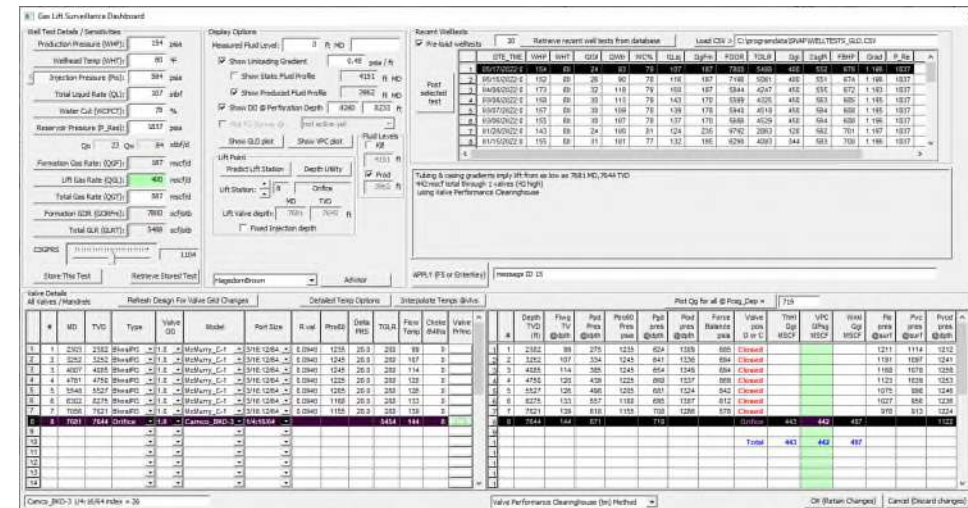
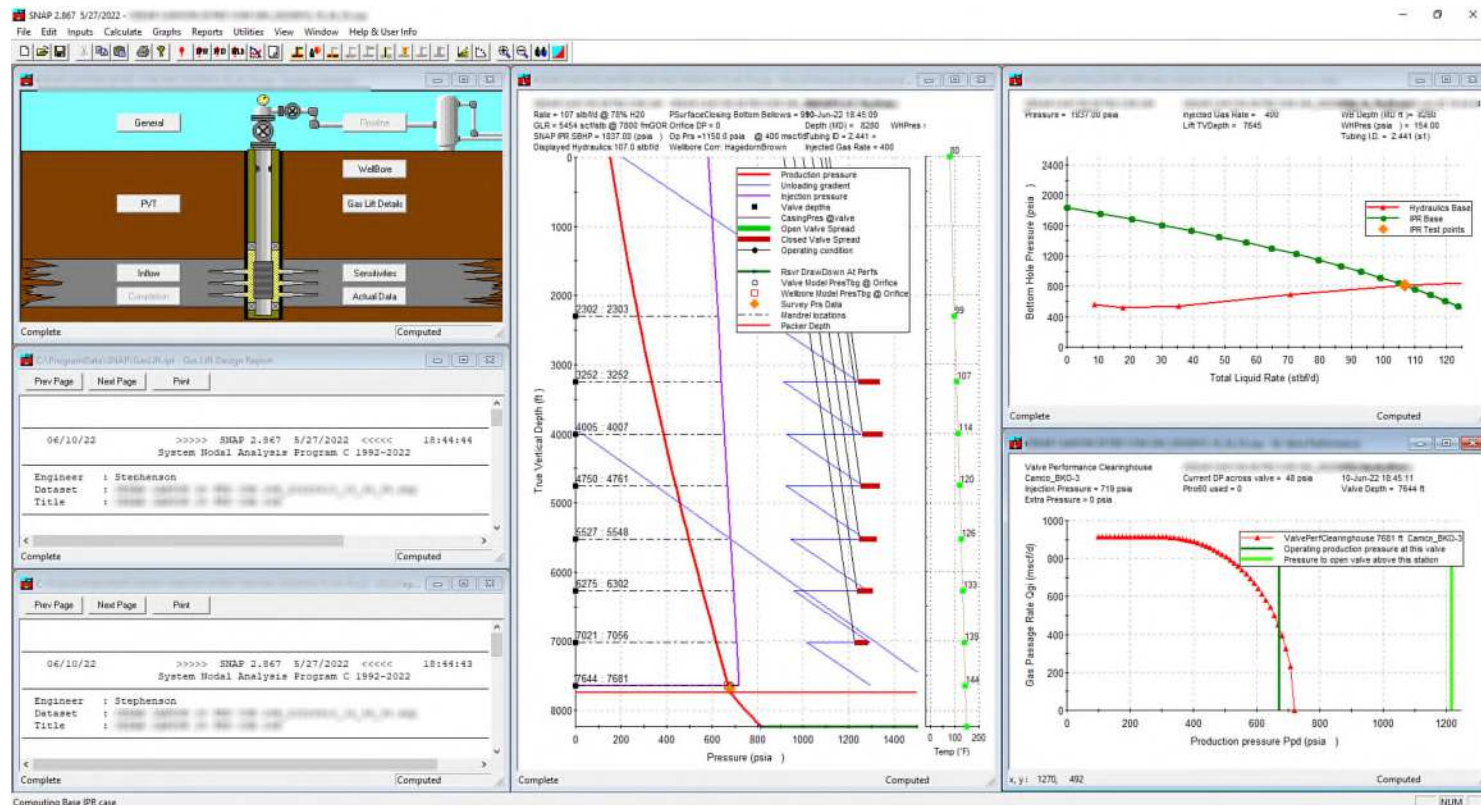
- Prosper
- SNAP
- NexusNodal



# WE'VE COME A LONG WAY FROM BARTON RECORDERS...

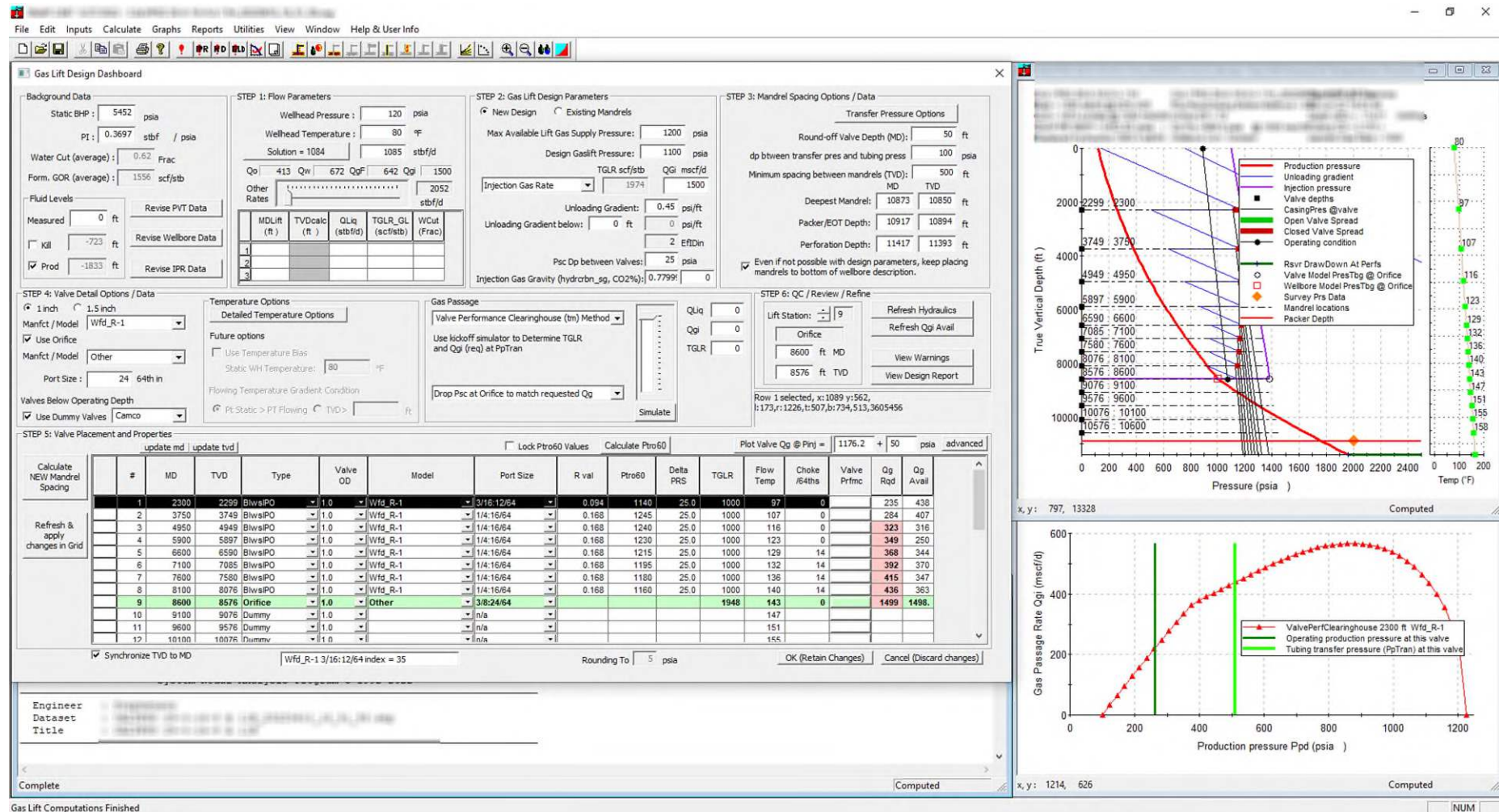


# GAS LIFT DIAGNOSTICS USING SNAP

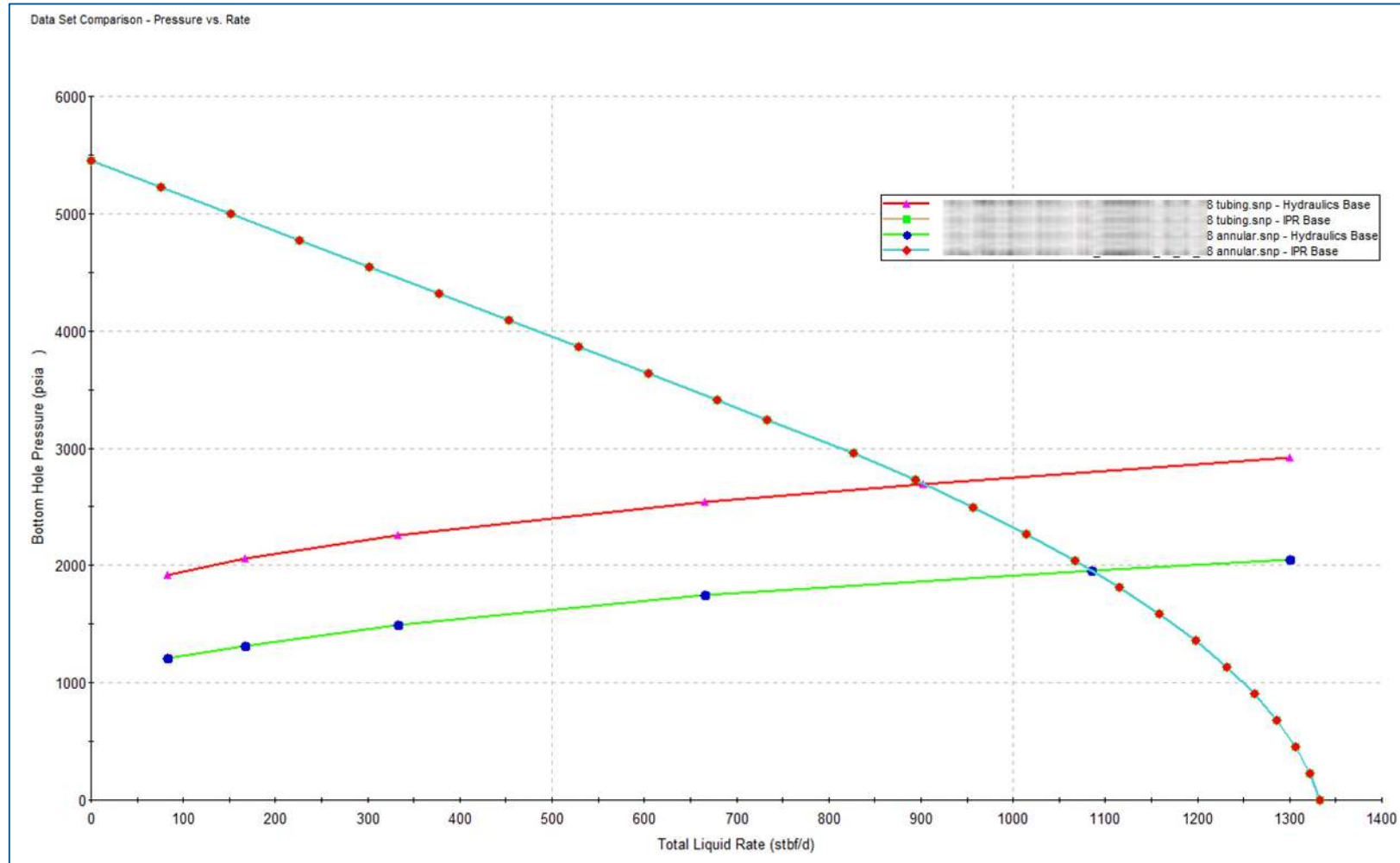




# USING VALVE PERFORMANCE IN DESIGN



# USING SNAP TO EVALUATE COMPLETION OPTIONS

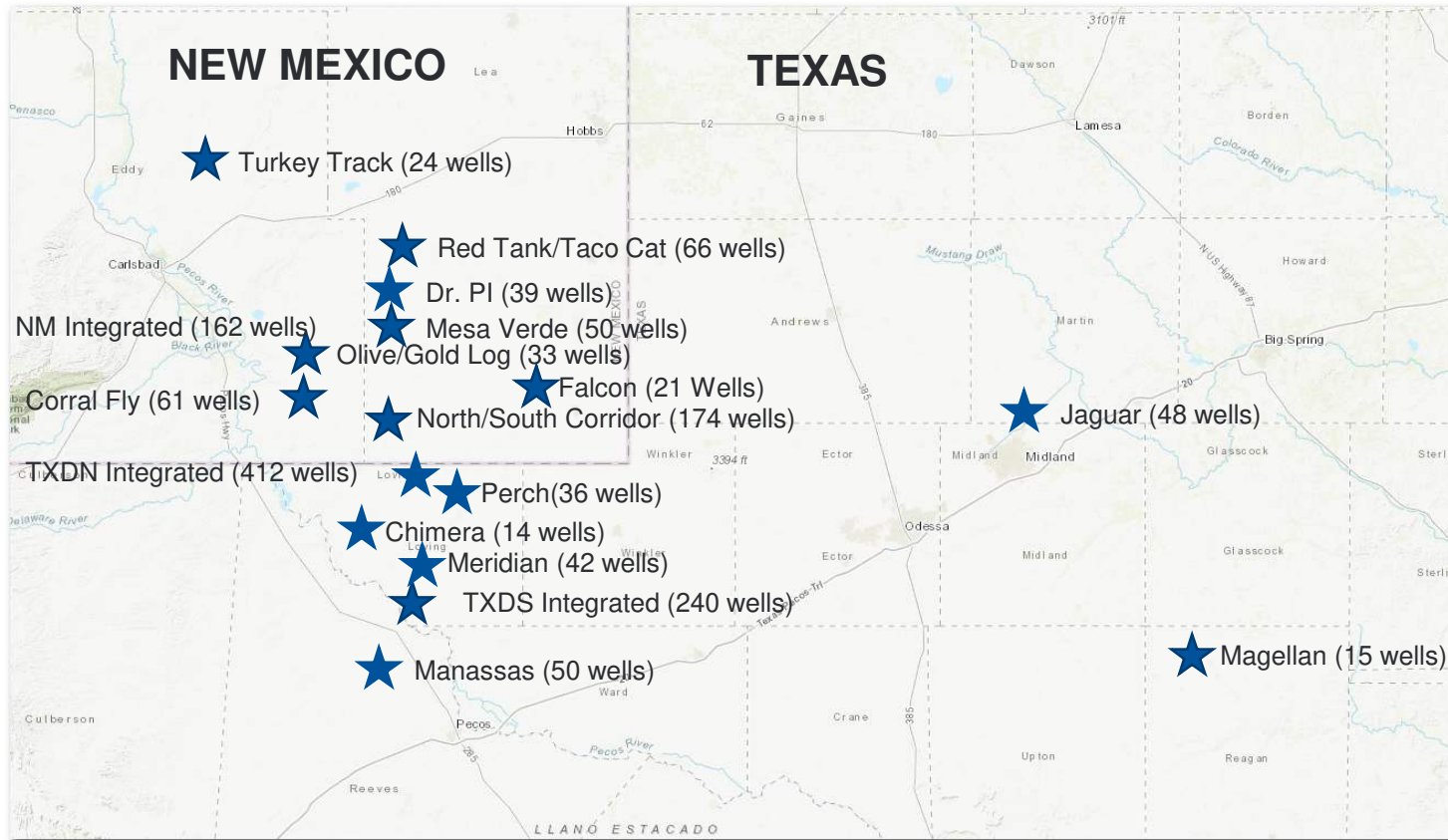


# OTHER RELATED SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

- Closed-loop GL Optimization (see SPE 209756-MS)
- Realtime Diagnostics
- Dedicated AL Team
- Failure Reviews
- Well Reviews
- Vendor Audits
- Corrosion Management
- Emissions Monitoring and Reduction

# AUTOMATED GAS LIFT OPTIMIZATION

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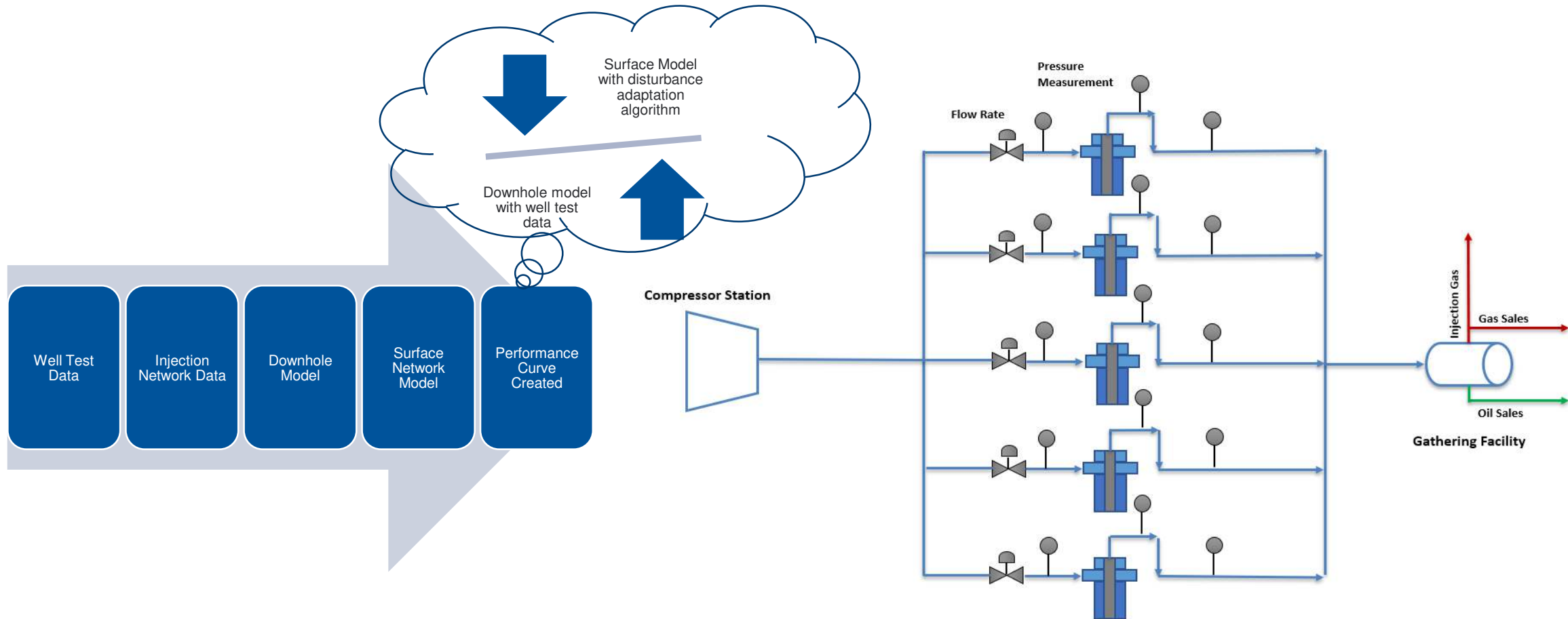


- Currently operates on 18 sites with 1497 gas lift wells currently under GLO control
- ~2.0 BCFD of injection gas is controlled by the GLO system
- Downtime Reduction of ~3% averaged across 1497 wells
- Production uplift performance
  - Uplift assuming the average of 6% realized on previous analysis = 30 MBOED



# HOW THE CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM WORKS

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- New injection set points can be made every minute if needed
- Pressures and Rates are read every 30 seconds
- Models can be run at desired frequency selected in the user interface
- Performance Curve is fed to the PLC from the edge device to make network changes automatically
- Total system gas is measured and honored when generating new setpoints

# EXPERIMENTATION

- Annular flow gas lift
- Intermittent gas lift / pilot valves
- PAGL/GAPL
- Chamber lift
- Surface controlled gas lift – both electric and hydraulic
- High-pressure single point and intermediate-pressure gas lift
- Alternative valve designs
- Alternative completion configurations / life-of-well completions
- GALLOP
- Closed-loop optimization using AI
- Gas Lift Diagnostics using AI

# LESSONS LEARNED

- Seek out the experts.
- Find best practices and adopt them.
- Don't assume you know everything.
- Be willing to try new things.
  - Dare to do what others won't!
- Always look for ways you can do better.
- Have fun!



**LEAD WITH PASSION • OUTPERFORM EXPECTATIONS**  
**DELIVER RESULTS RESPONSIBLY • UNLEASH OPPORTUNITIES • COMMIT TO GOOD**