KEEPING PRODUCT AND PROFITS FLOWING WITH CHEVRON HDAX® 5200 EF



66 We've eliminated emulsion-related shutdowns, saving us more than \$14,000 per day. 33

Reliability Supervisor Midstream natural gas company, Texas







Emulsion in the scrubbers.

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The Challenge

A midstream natural gas company contacted a Chevron Lubrication Marketer seeking a lubricant solution to eliminate emulsion-related equipment shutdowns. The company needed a product to lubricate the natural gas engines and reciprocating compressor cylinders used to compress and transfer natural gas through pipelines.

The natural gas stream in a pipeline can contain water and added chemicals, which can form an emulsion with residue from typical engine oil used to lubricate the compressor cylinders. This emulsion can fill the liquid separators and cause an automatic shutdown. Before the unit can be re-started, an operator must travel to the unit's location and remove the emulsion, typically using a high pressure washer that blasts the emulsion out of the separators. Midstream natural gas companies often sign contracts with their customers in which they agree to maintain a specified gas flow and guaranteed unit run time percentage. Equipment shutdowns reduce profitability and lead to broken contracts, penalty payments and/or damage to a company's reputation.

Investigation and Site Assessment

The Chevron Lubrication Marketer implemented the Best-in-Class site assessment tool and found that the oils in use at some compressor stations did not meet 0EM recommendations. They determined the need for a natural gas engine oil that meets the 0EM recommendations and contains the additives required to protect the engine and provide long engine life, but won't form strong emulsions when it is in contact with water and typical gas well production chemicals.

Solution

To achieve the goal of reducing equipment shutdowns the Chevron Lubrication Marketer recommended Chevron HDAX 5200 EF, which protects all of the compressor and engine components but does not create a strong emulsion, thereby allowing the water and chemicals to separate properly within the separator.

Results – Reduced Maintenance Costs and Increased Profitability

Since switching to HDAX 5200 EF, the midstream natural gas company has eliminated costly emulsion-related shutdowns, saving more than \$14,000 per day. Its pipeline now runs efficiently.