

Troubleshooting Natural Gas Processing: Wellhead to Transmission

Introduction

Preface

- 1 Increasing Gas Flow at the Wellhead
 - a. Configuration of Tubing and Casing.
 - b. Wellhead Performance Curve.
 - c. Liquid Loading.
 - d. Sustaining Gas Flow.
 - e. Use of Intermitters.
 - f. Sand Covering Perforations.
 - g. Tagging Bottoms.
- 2 Additional Ideas to Enhance Gas Flow
 - a. Calculating Gas Flow at Different Wellhead Pressures.
 - b. Coning Water into A Well.
 - c. Dual Completion Wells.
 - d. Gas Recovery During Initial Flaring.
 - e. Portable Sand Separator.
 - f. Soap Sticks.
- 3 Wellhead Surface Equipment
 - a. The Wellhead Tree.
 - b. The Master and Secondary Valves
 - c. Casing Pressure
 - d. Heater Operation
 - e. High Pressure Separator
 - f. Three Phase Separator Condensate and Brine Tanks
 - g. Wellhead Flash Gas Recovery
- 4 Wellhead Compression
 - a. Head-End/Crank-End Operation.
 - b. Optimizing Suction Pressure.
 - c. Horsepower Bottlenecks. Rod load Limits.
 - d. Fuel Saving Ideas.
 - e. Field Troubleshooting Checklist.
- 5 Process Cooling in Remote Locations
 - a. Heat Transfer Efficiency for Gas Cooling
 - b. Insufficient Air Flow
 - c. Fan Tip Speed. Blade Pitch
 - d. Effect of Glycol Dehydrators
 - e. Turbocharger Discharge Coolers.
- 6 Glycol Dehydration
 - a. Glycol Pump.
 - b. Reduced Glycol Circulation.
 - c. Regeneration Temperature.
 - d. Flooding Dehydration Tower.
 - e. Plugged Trays.

Troubleshooting Natural Gas Processing: Wellhead to Transmission

- f. Effect of Temperature and Pressure.
 - g. Selecting Dehydration Trays.
 - h. Overheating Glycol.
 - i. External Glycol Stripper.
 - j. Di-, Tri-, or Tetra-Glycol?
- 7 Reciprocating Compressors
- a. Lost Compressor Horsepower.
 - b. Unloader Failures.
 - c. Cylinder Temperature.
 - d. Beta Scans and the Carnot Cycle.
 - e. Efficiency.
 - f. Starting Volumetric Clearance.
 - g. Valve Losses.
 - h. Excessive Rod Loading.
- 8 Reciprocating Engines
- a. Cylinder Exhaust Temperature.
 - b. Vibration Analyzer.
 - c. Turbochargers.
 - d. Beta Scans and The Otto Cycle.
 - e. Engine Efficiency.
- 9 Loss in Centrifugal Compressor Capacity
- a. Compression Horsepower versus delta T. Labyrinth Seal Leakage.
 - b. Rotor Fouling.
 - c. Split Shaft Gas Turbine Drive.
 - d. Salt Deposits.
 - e. Dew Point Solid Deposits.
 - f. Anti-Surge Control.
- 10 Gas Turbine Driven Centrifugal Compressors
- a. Exhaust Temperature Limits
 - b. Compressor versus Gas Properties
 - c. Rotor Fouling
 - d. Driver Efficiency.
- 11 Light Hydrocarbon Distillation
- a. Control Problems.
 - b. Flooding.
 - c. Tower Delta P.
 - d. Liquid Level Causes Flooding.
 - e. Temperature Survey.
 - f. Foaming.
 - g. Expanding Tray Capacity and Efficiency.
 - h. Tray Damage.
- 12 Amine Regeneration and Scrubbing
- a. Dirty Amine.
 - b. Foaming.

Troubleshooting Natural Gas Processing: Wellhead to Transmission

- c. Corrosion Inhibitors, Reboiler and Condenser Corrosion.
 - d. Reclaimer Operation for MEA.
 - e. Filter Operation.
 - f. Amine Strength.
 - g. Retrofitting Ideas to Expand Capacity.
 - h. Energy Savings.
- 13 Sulfur Plant Operation
- a. Sulfur Losses. Air Ratio.
 - b. Catalyst Activity Reheat Exchangers.
 - c. Sulfur Fog.
 - d. Start-Up Problems.
 - e. Deposits on Catalyst Beds.
 - f. Condenser Leaks.
 - g. Plugged Seal Legs.
 - h. Oxygen Enrichment.
 - i. Cascading Seal Legs.
- 14 Hydrates
- a. Effect of Composition and Pressure.
 - b. Cooling on Expansion.
 - c. Use of Methanol.
 - d. Effect on Wellhead Compressors.
- 15 Production Metering
- a. Pulsation Effects.
 - b. Effect of Wellhead Compressors.
 - c. Eroded, Plugged Orifices.
 - d. Beta Ratio.
 - e. Gas Field Balances.
 - f. Custody Transfer Point.
- 16 Piping Pulsations
- a. Running Compressors in Parallel.
 - b. Resonant Piping Length.
 - c. Pulsation Dampener Bottle.
 - d. Effect of Piping Design.
- 17 Corrosion and Fouling
- a. Monitoring Internal Corrosion.
 - b. External Pipeline Corrosion.
 - c. Pipe-to-Soil Potential.
 - d. Biological Corrosion.

Glossary

Index