



## PRODUCED WATER MIDDLE EAST NDAY 12TH & MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2017 ST. REGIS HOTEL ABU DHABI, UAE

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### Water Management using constructed Surface Flow

## Wetland system in ASP flooding projects

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## 



- Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is the leading exploration and production company in the Sultanate of Oman
- PDO deliver the majority of the country's crude oil production and natural gas supply, but above all we focus on delivering excellence, growth and sustainable value creation within and well beyond our industry
- PDO produce 70% of the country's crude oil production and nearly all of its natural gas supply
- Production of produced water is increasing along with oil production
  - Current ratio is 9 bbl Produced Water (PW) / bbl Oil
  - Oil API varies from light to heavy



## التَدَيَّة تَعْطَعُمَانِ Petroleum Development Oman

- EOR technique identified to maximize production in heavy oil fields in PDO
- Leads to deployment/trial of new enhanced oil recovery techniques such as Polymer flooding and ASP.
- These new techniques alters the produced water physical/ chemical properties which creates produced water treatment/disposal problems
- Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has already carried out feasibility work to deploy ASP flood in several fields.
- There was a field trial on ASP injection in one of the field, with the objective to reduce key uncertainties on the performance and operation prior to start of full field development

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Source: Adapted from the Oil & Gas Journal, Apr. 23, 1990



## Introduction to ASP



- > Alkaline Surfactant Polymer (ASP) flooding is a potential follow-up process of water flooding.
- Polymer flooding improves the macroscopic sweep but not the microscopic sweep URF= incremental of 6% to 10% wrt water flooding
- ASP flooding improves both macroscopic and microscopic sweep URF= incremental of 12% to 20% wrt water flooding)

Alkaline Surfactant Polymer

Alkali: Forms in-situ soaps by reacting with petroleum acids (IFT reduction)and Reduces surfactant adsorption Examples: NaOH, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (ASP) Flooding

Surfactant: Lowers the Oil-Water IFT to less than 10<sup>-3</sup> dynes/cm and mobilizes the capillary trapped oil Examples: Shell Chemicals, other vendors

Polymer: Increase the injected water viscosity resulting in a better sweep efficiency and more accelerated oil production Examples: HPAM



# تَسَكَنُ تَسْمَيْهُ تَعْمَانَ Challenge Definition الله Petroleum Development Oman

Stokes Law:

 $V_t = \frac{g(\rho_p - \rho_l) d^2}{18\mu}$ 

> Stoke's law depicts the effects of ASP chemicals on conventional produced-water treatment systems.

- > Alakali: Increases produced water pH and creates severe scaling and corrosion issues.
- > Surfactant: Reduces the IFT resulting in smaller droplet size leading to longer residence time
- Polymer: Increases the viscosity of the aqueous phase leading to slow down of oil water separation (O/W emulsion) and decreases water quality.

### Typical Back Produced ASP Water Quality



MAN NAME	рН	8-12
Markey	Viscosity	8-12cP
Set And Inc.	Oil in Water	<200 ppm



## **ASP** Produced water Management



## Nimr Reed Bed



- Treats 115,000 m3/day of production water that is produced from Nimr Production Station.
- > Uses a series of surface flow constructed wetlands 360ha.
- > Disposes of the water through evaporation ponds 510ha.
- Gravity fed system.
- > Reed bed water treatment system is energy efficient for Produced water disposal





## **Trial Objective**



### Aim of the research project

To investigate the effect of the back produced ASP chemicals on the Reed bed.

## **Objectives**

- 1. Effect of ASP concentration on
  - a. Water quality in the Reed bed terraces,
  - b. Plant growth and health,
  - c. Water loss.



## Experimental set-up, Location





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## Experimental set-up, Plant species



#### Five wetland plant species

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## Experimental set-up, ASP solution preparation





## Experimental set-up, ASP solution preparation

Each ASP treatment solution was prepared in a separate IBC.

- A diesel pump enabled to send PW from RB 3.1 of the NWTP in each IBC dedicated for the preparation of ASP solutions.
- An exact weight of 0.9kg of polymer was slowly added to the IBC while sending approximately 500 L of PW. Mechanical agitation was then conducted for 30min.
- Alkali and Surfactant were added in the IBC while filling the IBC with PW up to 1000 L.
- Continuous mechanical agitation was conducted for an additional three hours.



## **Operation, Sampling and Analysis**



Day	Daily Operation		Weekly Operation		
	Торир	Water	<b>Bulk Mixing</b>	Flushing	Refilling
	Water loss	Analysis			
Saturday			Х		Х
Sunday	Х	Х			Х
Monday	Х				
Tuesday	Х	Х			
Wednesday	Х				
Thursday	Х	Х			
Friday	Х		Х	Х	

- Water quality: measured in-situ in each mesocosm with portable meter. pH DO EC (BNO) & Polymer (PDO)
- Above Ground Dry Biomass: measured after completion of the phase; i.e. 12 weeks. Separation alive/dead biomass
- Water loss: measured with a flowmeter. Volume of water added to datum level.
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## **Results, Water Quality**



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		рН (-)	EC (mS/cm)	DO (ppm)	Polymer (ppm)
ASP1	Phase 1	7.6 – 9.0	16.1 – 16.8	3.6 – 15.7	875
	Phase 2	7.8 – 9.0	16.6 – 18.7	12.7 – 17.5	
ASP2	Phase 1	8.9 – 9.7	16.7 – 18.5	3.0 – 23.9	875
	Phase 2	8.8 – 9.7	16.5 – 19.9	7.3 – 18.2	
ASP3	Phase 1	9.9 – 10.1	21.9 – 23.9	4.0 - 9.4	875
	Phase 2	9.9 - 10.1	23.6 – 28.2	9.5 – 15.7	
NWTP	min - max	6.8 – 9.4	10.9 – 21.9	0.1 – 12.1	

- Increase of pH and EC when increasing the alkalinity EC increases in Phase 2 (ET)
- Comparable pH and EC between ASP 1-2 for Phase 1-2 and NWTP
- > Inconsistency of DO (Air Temperature, salinity, plant density, mesocosm location)
- Polymer concentration matching with design concentration

## **Results, AGDB**

- All wetland plant species can tolerate ASP concentration during the growth stage, variability and decrease in AGDB between ASP concentrations for both phase (pH, salinity effects)
- Lower AGDB in Phase 2 for P, T, S (Surfactant, salinity in water, salinity in soil)
- Cyperus and Juncus are the most tolerant plant species to the chemicals. Growth and health limitation for Juncus in Phase 2.
  - Investigation on hydrocarbon removal
  - Chemical accumulation to the plant tissues
- Level of necrosis is very low after 3 months experiment PRODUCED WATER
  - Evaluation of the plant health over 1-year

NWTP biomass after 5 yrs operation =  $800-2,000 \text{ g/m}^2$ 



## **Results, AGDB**



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#### End Phase 1





Cyperus

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Juncus

Cyperus

Juncus



## **Results, Water Loss**

- Transpiration of all wetland plant species shown in green,
- Variability and decrease in water loss when increasing ASP concentrations
- Transpiration highly dependent on Above Ground Dry Biomass
- Cumulative water loss slightly higher with PW only – no statistical analysis conducted

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A121

APR

Phase



ANK

Phragmites

Typha

ASPI

ASP2

Phase 2

Cyperus

Schoenoplectus

AGES

ASP3

45213

## Conclusion



#### Effect of ASP on water quality

Alkalinity increases pH and EC,

### Effect of ASP on plant growth

- Tolerance of all plant species to ASP solutions during the growth stage,
- Decreases in Above Ground Dry Biomass when Alkalinity increases,
- Cyperus and Juncus are the most tolerant plant species after short term experiment (3 months),

#### **Effect of ASP on water loss**

Transpiration of all wetland plant species,

Water loss highly dependent on AGDB



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