# High Density Perforating & eXtreme Limited Entry

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### **SPE Webinar**

West Side Study Group

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# Mining the Bakken – SPE 184828 & 189880

- Williston Basin Completion Evolution
- > Summarizing HDP + XLE + 1 SPC
- > Diagnostic Data Examples
- Key Variables & Sources of Variability
- Published Impacts of XLE
- Conclusions



### Williston Basin – Middle Bakken Completion Evolution

- Pre 1986 Vertical wells
- 1986-1999 Hz wells, OH, 1 frac
- 2007 Start of multi-stage Hz's

#### Liberty Resources 2011-2019

- 2011- Q3 2014: OH, swell packers, PnP (4-7 clusters), 35 stages
- 2014 Q4: Cemented, PnP, 35-50 stages, <u>started HDP</u>, bio ball trials
- 2015 Q4: Trialed solid particle diverter, 100% sand fracs
- <u>2016 Q1: XLE trials</u>
- 2016 Q2: XLE becomes standard, <u>stage count reduction</u> <u>trials</u>
- 2016 Q4: Reduced stage count standard (27stgs /10,000ft)
- 2018 Q1: <u>Started 1 hole per</u> cluster trials (1 SPC)
- 2019 Q2: 1SPC standard. Started angled perf trials



NDIC Middle Bakken data updated through October 2019



# HDP + XLE + 1 SPC

### What?

- High Density Perforating (HDP): A strategy to place a dense fracture network more contained within the producing formation to dramatically increase productive surface area.
- Extreme Limited Entry (XLE): A perforating design that incorporates known operational constraints to maximize the amount of perforation friction in each stage while still achieving the designed pump rate.

### Why HDP?

• Economic benefit: Reduce stage count, maintain cluster count per well and pounds of sand per cluster.

### Why XLE?

• Consistently treat a high number of perf clusters by overcoming intra-stage fracture-entry pressure differences and more evenly distribute frac fluid to each fracture initiation point.

### Why 1 Hole Clusters?

- Rare to get 100% of clusters open...Thus, there is a fluid distribution imbalance with > 1 hole per cluster.
- Further reduces risk of "super clusters" by evening out fluid placed per cluster.
- Elevates the value of step down tests when "holes open" = "clusters open".
- Zero Degree Phasing (Up): minimize near well tortuosity and prevent sanding off with prolonged shut down.



# e<u>X</u>treme <u>Limited Entry</u> – XLE The Injection Variability Index





The injection rate through a perforation is squared relative to the pressure change across it.

 $(\boldsymbol{P}_{pf} \propto \boldsymbol{Q}^2)$ 

• Increasing the perforation friction counteracts variations in fracture-entry pressures; as the perforation friction increases the fluid distribution converges.



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#### **Notable Industry Publications**

- 1960 "Pinpoint Sand Fracturing" case study. Murphy and Juch
- 1962 "Limited Entry" term published. Lagrone & Rasmussen, SPE 530
- 1963 Oilfield ΔPperf equation published based on Bernoulli Theorem. McClain
- 1987 Limited Entry in Massive Hydraulic Fracturing Treatments – DJ Basin. Cramer, SPE 16189
- 1988 Effects of Perf Friction on BHTP, Lab Work. Crump and Conway, SPE 15474
- 1995 Net pressure increases shown to impact "real time" Pperf calculations. M.J. Eberhard & D.E. Schlosser, SPE 29553
- 1997 & 2000 Step-Down Test Analysis Problems. Wright C., Weijers L., SPE 62549
- 1999 New Perf Pressure Loss Correlations for LE. El Rabba, SPE 54533
- 2017 High Density Perforating Published Weddle et al., SPE184828
- 2017 "eXtreme Limited Entry" improves distribution efficiency. Somanchi et al., SPE 184834
- 2018 "Injection Variability Index" introduced for XLE & HDP perforating techniques – Weddle Et al., SPE 189880



### **1 HOLE PER CLUSTER – Summary Discussion Points**

### Erosion:

- Twice the proppant per hole with 1spc vs 2spc for a given pounds per cluster design.
- Larger hole diameters theoretically minimize the erosion rate per pound pumped.

### <u>1 SPC:</u>

• 0<sup>o</sup> phasing consistency and casing offset still requires even-hole perforation charges to minimize EHD variations.

### **Diagnostics Limitations:**

- Not yet able to confidently calibrate proppant actually transported through each perforation or cluster.
- While it is useful, camera and ultrasonic perf imaging are not yet complete diagnostics on their own.



### Results – Post Frac Warmback Analysis



#### **Summary:**

- Each stage broken into thirds for fluid distribution analysis.
- Confirmation that XLE aids in evenly distributing frac fluid.

### **Diagnostic Comments:**

- DTS/DAS provides high confidence of fluid distribution, not proppant.
- Erosion measured from camera diagnostics does not confirm proppant distribution because the amount of erosion is relative kinetic energy changes w/in the stage from heel to toe.



# Results - Proppant Transport in The Casing Matters!





# Results – Reducing Variability with Acid Breakdowns





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Acid Soak: 100 bbls 15% HCL (4 x the standard)

- 3 lbs of Diverter: No response (cleaned up the NWB!)
- 100% Perforation Cluster Efficiency

Minimized the fracture-entry pressure from near wellbore friction/tortuosity, thus getting more efficiency for a given perf friction! -What else can we to do limit variability?





# **Before We Go Any Further...**

Keep these classifications in mind as we cover the *variables* and *sources of variability* in the system.

### Donald Rumsfeld said it well:

- There are **known knowns**; there are things we know we know.
- We also know there are **known unknowns**; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know.
- But there are also **unknown unknowns**; there are things we don't know we don't know.

Unknowns Knowns	Known Knowns Things we are aware of and understand.	Known Unknowns Things we are aware of but don't understand.
	Unknown Knowns	Unknown Unknowns
	Things we understand but are not aware of.	Things we are neither aware of nor understand.
95	Knowns	Unknowns



# Variables and Sources of Variability in the System:

Known-Knowns or Known-Unknowns?

**Static or Dynamic?** 

### What can you and your team do about them?

#### Perforating:

• Phasing, Orientation, Casing vs barrel offset, Bobsledding w/shooting on the fly, angled perforations.

#### **Perf Friction:**

 Entry Hole Diameter, Holes shot & open, Perf erosion rate (heel vs toe erosion trends are not calibrated yet), Pumping rate, Pipe Friction, Coefficient of discharge, Max surface pressure allowed.

#### **Proppant transport:**

- In casing, In perf holes, In a frac network.
- Viscosity, Velocity, Density, Gravity, Turbulence, Toe up vs Toe down sections of lateral, Proppant concentration, Fluid distribution per cluster, Proppant distribution per cluster, Operational surface limits.

#### **Near Wellbore Friction:**

 Shots per cluster, Perf charge size, Penetration depth, Orientation, Phasing, Breakdown techniques: acid & sand slugs.

#### **Stress Variability:**

- <u>Minimum Stress</u> variations along the lateral and through the targeted formation.
- <u>Stress Shadowing</u> from other active clusters, prior stages, offset zippered stages, leak-off effects in zone and out of zone, depletion from offset wells.



# **Sources of Variability – Perf Performance & Phasing**



**Even-Hole Charges Provide Consistency (more than we had before!):** 

What can we do to minimize this further?

SOURCES

- Shoot at a single phase, oriented.
- Utilize larger (but fishable) perf barrels.
- Other?



**Perforation Friction [psi]** 

# **Sources of Variability – Perf Design & Erosion Effects**

### **Design Variables for Perf Friction:**

- 1. D<sub>p</sub> = Diameter of Perforation Holes
  - a. Initial diameter variability from phase
  - b. Final diameter after proppant erosion
- **2.**  $N_P$  = Number of <u>Open</u> Perforations
- **3. CD** = Coefficient of Discharge
- 4. Q = Pump Rate

#### 

**ρ** = Fluid density, lbs/gal

#### What can we do to limit the erosion rate?

- Lower ppa?
- Angled perforations or slots?
- Larger single hole clusters?



# 1 SPC vs. 2 SPC – Examples and Observations

#### **Observations:**

Comparison of 1 spc stage with a 2spc stage, 15 clusters each:

- Significant difference in bpm/hole and perf friction
- 64% more proppant per open hole in the 1 spc stage.
- 1 vs 2 proppant ramps. (higher % of job hitting perfs at higher PPA). But arguably, the erosion rate is noticeably higher from the start, even in the steps to ramp up PPA.





2 shots per cluster, 15 clusters, 30 total shots example: Max Rate = 90BPM Max Rate / OH = 3.9 bpm Initial Holes Open = 23, 0.40" EH Initial Pperf = 1,797 psi @ 90bpm Final Pperf = 846psi @ 90bpm Rounding & Erosion = ~951 psi.

- **1 spc, 15 total holes example:** Max Rate = 90BPM Max Rate / OH = 6.42 bpm Initial Holes Open = 14, **0.44" EH** Initial Pperf = 3,156 psi @ 85bpm (note we pumped at 90, tested 85) Final Pperf = 1,269psi @ 85bpm Rounding & Erosion = ~1,887 psi.
- A handful of stages consistently indicated a step change in the erosion rate occurs when above 3,000 psi in our 1 SPC design.
- Erosion of EHD does not appear to be a 1 or 2 variable relationship with #/perf.

# Kinetic Energy of Proppant from Heel to Toe Cluster:

- Camera data shows erosion of holes, but it cannot confirm the amount of proppant that caused that erosion. More specifically, it cannot tell you how much proppant went through each perforation.
- Kinetic energy of an object is proportional to the amount of erosional effects it has when it hits another object.
  - Kinetic Energy =  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mass x Velocity<sup>2</sup>
- Industry needs more diagnostic tools to measure proppant placed per cluster!

If you don't believe me, experiment for yourself:







# Published Impact of XLE – Shell (SPE-184834)

### **Conclusions:**

- Increased perforation friction demonstrated a more even fluid distribution than prior designs.
- Increasing injection rate throughout the job aided in maintaining even fluid distribution.



### **Published Impact of XLE – SM Energy (SPE-199712)** Conclusions:

- Diverter did not open incremental fracture initiation points.
- Wellbore orientation impacts heel or toe bias within a stage...gravity works!
- Increased stage length did not lead to performance degradation.
- Perf erosion (camera) not always linked to fracture initiation (DTS).





Figure 33—2D visualization of the lateral plotted with the directional survey coordinates. The transition point from toe-biased erosion stages to heel-biased erosion stages is noted.

# **Published Impact of XLE – Devon Energy**

Sealed Wellbores and the Unlikely "Breakthrough" Behind Cheap, Accurate Fracture Diagnostics - JPT April 1, 2020.



Each point on this chart represents one stage. Total perforation area was measured using a downhole camera for each stage, then sized and colored according to perforation friction. The results show a strong relationship between perforation area and volume to first response (VFR). *Source: Devon Energy.* 

### Key Takeaway:

 A strong relationship exists between the amount of perf friction and the amount of fluid it requires to hit an offset well...e.g. better fluid distribution per cluster is achieved with increased perf friction. Devon calls this the Volume to First Response (VFR).



higher VFRs correlate to better fluid and proppant placement between offsetting wells. Source: Devon Energy.

# Published Impact of XLE: Liberty Resources (SPE 189880)

### Leveraging HDP + XLE to reduce stage count increases capital efficiency:

• 50 to 21 stages per 10,000 ft lateral.

### **Reference for GOR Behavior: SPE 184397- Steve Jones**

- Depletion (withdrawals) drives GOR increase
- Effective cluster spacing drives rate acceleration





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### CONCLUSIONS

- Increasing perforation friction (XLE) counteracts variations in fracture-entry pressures; as the perforation friction increases the fluid distribution to the perforations converge as shown with <u>The Injection Variability Index</u>.
- An HDP strategy can efficiently create conductive and productive surface area. Fracture geometry and conductivity are important considerations when applying an HDP strategy.
- Multiple diagnostic data sets demonstrate the success of XLE in driving cluster efficiency > 80% and more evenly
  distributing the frac fluid to each active fracture initiation point.
- Consistent diameter entry holes provide more operational consistency when using XLE and Step Down Tests. Utilizing 1-SPC increases consistency even further.
- Well planned and executed drilling, geo-steering, perforating and stimulation can minimize the impacts of the variability of the system, resulting in more consistent well results.
- Finding and development costs [\$/bbl] can be optimized for a targeted cluster spacing and cluster count per well by utilizing an HDP + XLE strategy.
- The industry continues to leverage each others learnings into further progress!





## **Results – Initial 2016 XLE Field Trial with RA tracer**



#### Middle Bakken stages *without* XLE:

- 85% Overall RA PCE, but low PCE in 1<sup>st</sup> proppant ramp of 59%.
   Middle Bakken stages with XLE:
- 93% Overall RA PCE and also high PCE in 1<sup>st</sup> proppant ramp of 85%.



# Sources of Variability – Proppant Transport in the Lateral

### Oroskar Correlation

• Image Courtesy of Mark McClure w/ResFrac

### Variable list of what impacts it...

- Pipe Diameter
- Proppant Density
- Proppant Loading
- Effective Viscosity
- Water Density
- Particle Diameter
- Shah 1990, SPE 18994
  - Critical velocity needed of >6.4bpm





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### VERIFYING STEP DOWN TESTS WITH DM BALL SEALERS

### 7/8" DM Ball Sealers - Middle Bakken



 Excellent calibration to calculated number of holes open from initial and final step down analysis in a cemented PnP well design

## Initial step down analysis showed 12 holes open at 79.4 bpm. 1 hole per cluster, 0.56": 1. <u>Pperf = 1,700 psi going into first sweep</u> 2 DM Ball sealers deployed 2. Just 10 holes open at 79.4 bpm in 2<sup>nd</sup> ramp Calculated increase in Pperf = <u>~750psi</u> Actual increase in STP = <u>~800psi</u> STP drops twice in ramp, back to original STP 3. <u>Pperf = ~1,330 psi going into 2nd sweep</u> Cd=~0.85 with prior proppant placed 4 x DM Ball sealers deployed

- 4. Just 8 holes open at 79.4 bpm in 2<sup>nd</sup> ramp **Calculated** increase in Pperf = -1,650 psi Actual increase in STP = -1,700 psi
- 5. STP drops in 3<sup>rd</sup> ramp Final step down indicated 11 holes open

# **High Density Perforating – Steepening the Curve...**



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### HDP – Impacts on Frac Geometry & Conductivity



- All scenarios, 13,333 200,000 lbs/cluster place proppant through entire Bakken Pool.
- Conductivity is reduced...but sufficient for <10 BFPD per cluster that is expected.</li>
- How much proppant is lost to above or below zone propped height?

For more on this topic: SPE-199751

# Wild Cards - Frac Plug Ball Testing Recommended!

### **Basic Testing Outline:**

- 1.5" Seat based on current frac plug.
  - 1.875" Ball (+/-0.005") Material A
  - 2.375" Ball (+/-0.005") Material B
- 100F and 200F fresh water tests
- 5,000 psi for 30 seconds then 9,000 psi up to 8 hours or failure.
- Does this help explain "plug failure" signatures during frac even when we "tag" the plug on drill out?



1.875" Ball 200F Fail @ ~8.5K psi 100F Test Pass @ 9K psi —







2.375" Ball 200F Fail @ 4.5K psi -100F Pass @ 9K psi







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# 1 Hole Per Cluster – Examples and Observations

#### **Observations:**

Increased Erosion and "steeper" STP trend observed on some stages and interpreted as a higher erosion rate per pound pumped...Why??

- Difference in EH but the same bpm/hole, so a velocity difference and a perf friction difference.
- 1 vs 2 proppant ramps. (higher % of job hitting perfs at higher PPA). But arguably, the erosion rate is noticeably higher from the start, even in the steps to ramp up PPA.





Max Rate = 90BPM Max Rate / OH = 6.0 bpm Initial Holes Open = 15, 0.49" EH Initial Pperf = 2,593psi @ 90bpm Final Pperf = 1,573psi @ 90bpm Rounding & Erosion = ~1,000 psi.

Acceptable rate of erosion?



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### XLE CALIBRATION: HOLES OPEN ( $N_p$ ) AND INITIAL vs FINAL $P_{pf}$





# Holes Open: Multi-well calibration of $N_p$ has resulted in a 75% holes open design assumption.

- Max rate before initial SDT effects Np
- Intra-stage SHmin variability effects % of holes open.

# Perforation Friction Changes (Erosion): Initial and Final *Ppf* demonstrate magnitude of erosion.

- Pipe hardness: P-110 pipe vs L-80
- Proppant loading (ppa)
- Proppant per perforation
- Even hole charges vs standard API charges
- Work hardening of casing from perfs vs drilled holes in lab

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