

Flow Assurance Technical Section Webinar



Sanction in 3 Months (An Engineering Perspective for Deepwater Subsea Tieback)

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Project Summary

- ❑ Company A has drilled 2 wells & 3 side tracks
- ❑ Data Available:
 - ❖ PVT data of fluids collected during MDT (Oil API ~30, GOR ~1,000 scf/stb, Water salinity ~18%)
 - ❖ Pressures and logs from the wells
- ❑ Host operated by Company B (no ownership in wells yet)
- ❑ Host has capacity for 2 production risers and an umbilical, ~30-mile subsea tie-back
- ❑ Processing capacity up to 15,000 blpd and associated gas
- ❑ Expansion of HPU, control system and other functions to support tie-back is feasible
- ❑ Different ownership production, measurement and allocation using multiphase metering
- ❑ Desired production within 1 year (or ASAP)

Investment Decision in 3 months (lease expiry)!

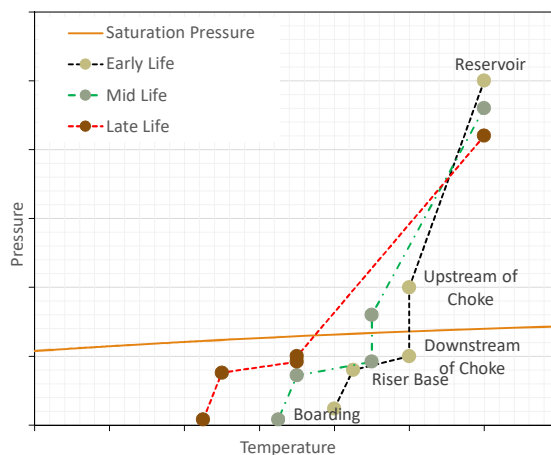
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Standard Design

- Instrumentation (PT sensors)
 - ❖ bottomhole (max 2 zones individually)
 - ❖ upstream and downstream of choke
 - ❖ possibly at manifolds
- Horizontal Tree
 - ❖ subsea choke optimized for appropriate well control & drawdown
- Flowloop (potential pigging) – could be optimized (wet / pipe-in-pipe)
 - ❖ Direct electrical heating considered
- Riser based connections for future artificial lift (pumps, gas lift ...)
- Frac pack with sand screens
 - ❖ sand production not anticipated
- Chemical injection
 - ❖ largest umbilical tube limited to 0.75" ID
 - ❖ 1x oil-based chemical; downhole
 - ❖ 1x water-based chemical; downhole
 - ❖ 1x LDHI – at subsurface safety valve (SCSSV)
 - ❖ 1x methanol – at tree and SCSSV
- Flow rate measurements (oil, gas, water)
 - ❖ Per well: multiphase meter at well jumper
 - ❖ Per riser: multiphase meter and/or separator

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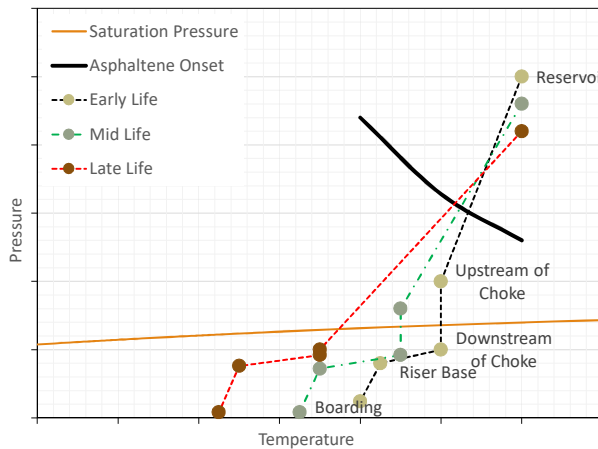
Vapor Liquid Equilibrium



- Primarily oil in the reservoir (water influx with depletion)
- Wellbore expected to see phase change in late life (below bubble point)
- Flowline and riser always expected to be below bubble point (gas, oil and water)
- Expected strong water drive and hence, significant water production
- Insulation to be determined (PIP unlikely to retain temperatures above wax appearance temperature)

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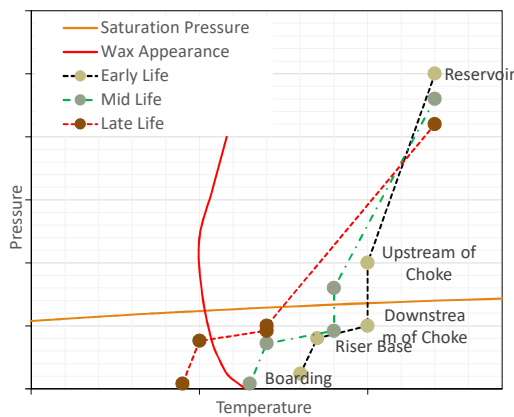
Asphaltenes



- Near wellbore reservoir pressure above asphaltene onset pressure
 - ❖ Formation damage from asphaltene precipitation not anticipated
- Asphaltene precipitation in wellbore from day 1
 - ❖ Mitigated using continuous asphaltene inhibitor injection
- Pressures in flowline and riser below bubble point, no asphaltene deposition expected (per previous experience)

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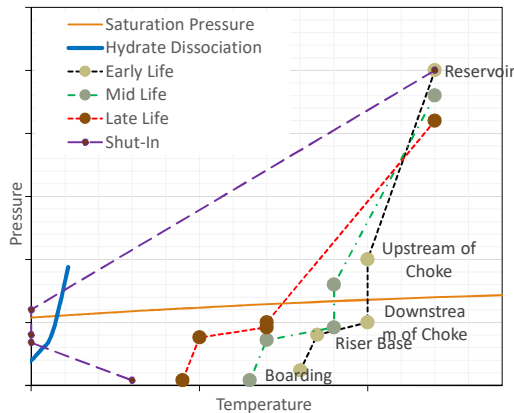
Wax



- Pipe in pipe insulation impractical for heat retention at lower flow rates
- With wet insulation, temperatures fall below wax appearance temperature in flowline and riser
- Hot oil circulation or mechanical remediation of deposits desired near host
- Based on export oil (degassed) experience, expected wax deposition is low and mitigated using continuous chemical injection
 - ❖ Stable hydraulics (delta P)
 - ❖ Not pigged in over a decade of operations

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Hydrate



- ❑ Anticipated water salinity ~18%
- ❑ Flowing conditions outside hydrate conditions
- ❑ Long shut-in and restart enter hydrate zone
- ❑ Hydrate related plugging very low
 - ❖ 4 analogs (high water salinity)
 - ❖ bathymetry to be considered
- ❑ Dead oil circulation – possible but impractical
 - ❖ dead oil not stored, need buy back
 - ❖ long circulation time

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Flowline (Single vs. Flow Loop)

- ❑ Heat loss resulting in wax and hydrate deposition is a possibility, albeit very low
- ❑ Single flowline with electrical heating considered;
 - ❖ could result in ~6-month delay; rejected
 - ❖ possible use of I-tube for power umbilical; not desired
- ❑ Flow loop (2 flowlines) advantages:
 - ❖ accommodate future upside
 - ❖ standard kit; expedient execution meets project goals
 - ❖ experience in installation and operation



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Risk Summary

Yrs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Asphaltene															
Wax															
Hydrate*															
Scale*															
Corrosion*															
Emulsion*															

*Assumes water breakthrough in year 3.

- ☐ Asphaltene deposition in the wellbore is the greatest risk with uncertainty in chemical performance & cost of remediation.
- ☐ All other risks can be mitigated using a combination of chemicals and operating procedures as well as remediated with relatively lower costs.

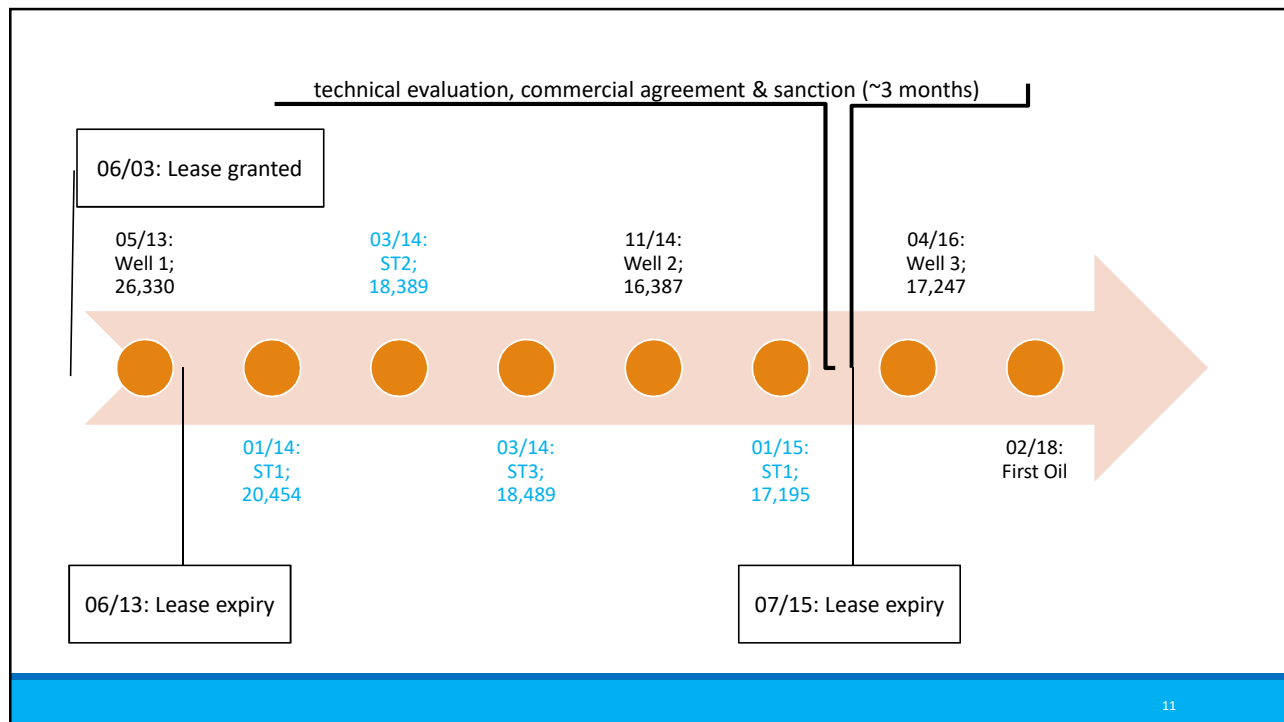
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Intervention

- ☐ Pigging capability of flow loop (wax, corrosion)
 - ❖ smart pigging possibility
- ☐ Mechanical Interventions (asphaltene, wax, hydrate)
 - ❖ Direct vertical access to riser (coiled tubing, etc)
 - ❖ Rig for well bore
- ☐ Fluid Interventions (asphaltene, wax, hydrate)
 - ❖ Direct vertical access to riser (coiled tubing, etc)
 - ❖ Access at manifolds (coil?)
 - ❖ Riserless technology for well bore
 - ❖ Bullheading
 - ❖ Umbilical tubes (chemical spotting close to injection locations)

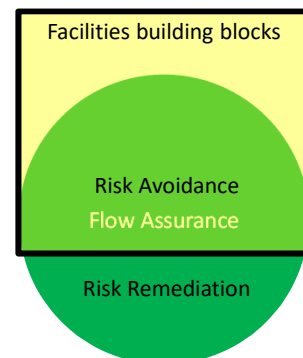


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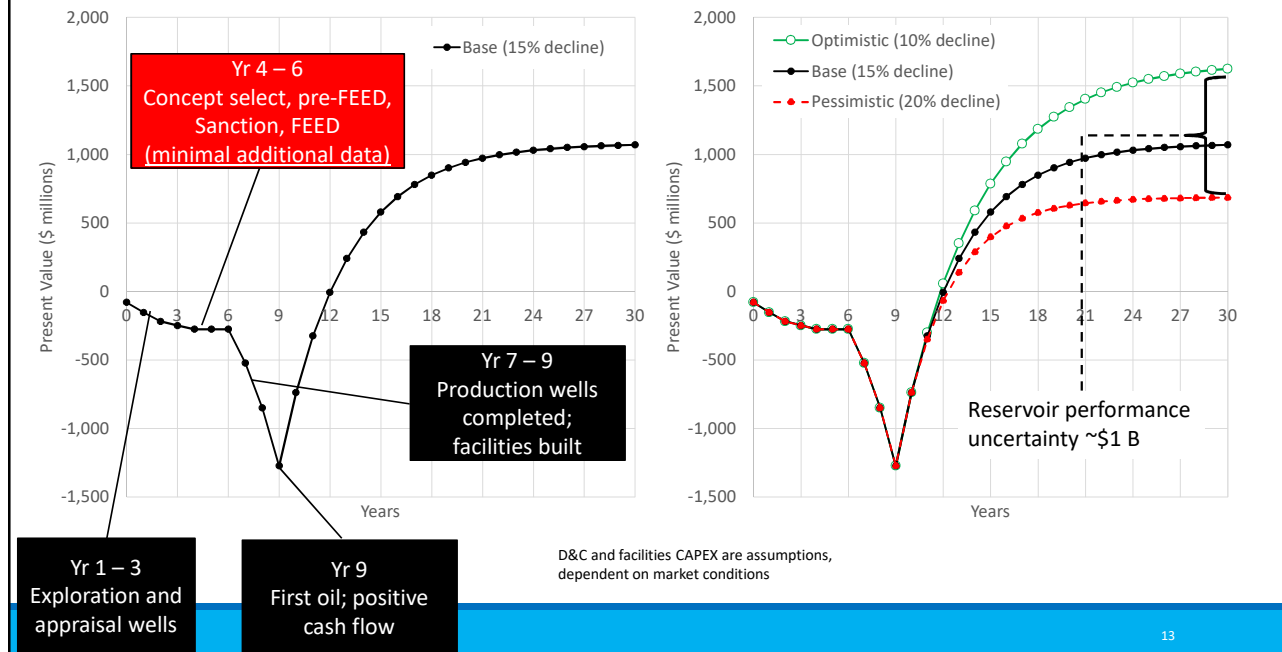


Summary

- ❑ Standardized LEGO-like subsea facilities
 - ❖ requires optimal supply-chain
 - ❖ compatible multi-vendor equipment (desired)
- ❑ Consider flow assurance risks in 2 parts
 - ❖ risk avoidance with available facilities
 - ❖ risk remediation, if manifested
- ❑ Consider high reservoir performance uncertainty while engineering fit-for-purpose facilities
- ❑ Does shorter engineering time matter?

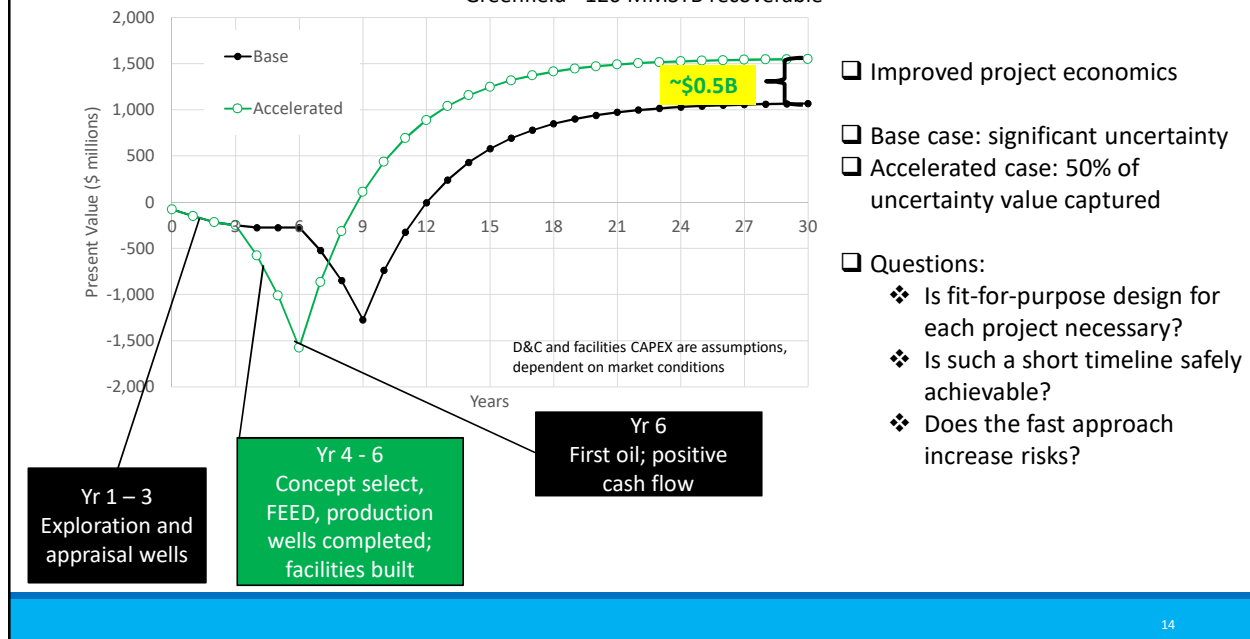


An Example Deepwater Development Economics - Uncertainty



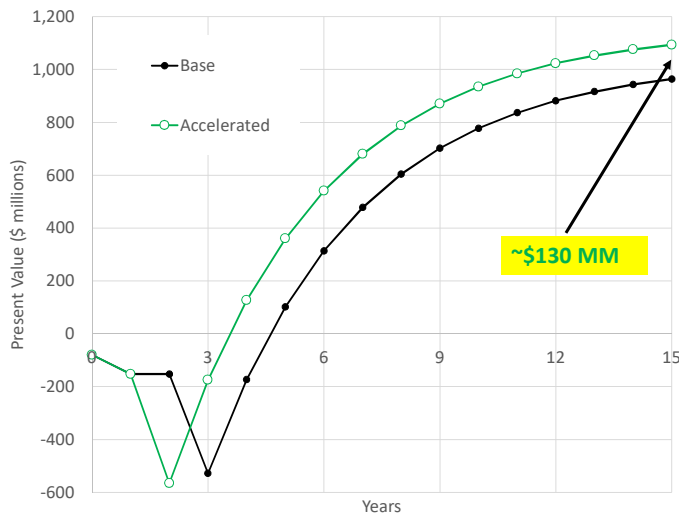
An Example Deepwater Development Economics - Acceleration

Greenfield ~120 MMSTB recoverable



An Example Deepwater Development Economics - Acceleration

Brownfield subsea tieback ~65 MMSTB recoverable



D&C and facilities CAPEX are assumptions, dependent on market conditions

- ❑ Project economics are better with acceleration of greenfield and brownfield projects (even subsea tiebacks) – Duh!
- ❑ Commonality in equipment design and operating philosophy improves project economics.
- ❑ Collaboration amongst operators and suppliers is essential.

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Subsea Development Utopia

- ❑ Minimize Reservoir Uncertainty (Water): Challenge to Operators
- ❑ Standardized LEGO-like Equipment: Challenge to Suppliers
- ❑ Create Subsea Equipment Portfolio: Challenge to Operators
- ❑ Shorten Engineering Timeline: Challenge to Engineering / Operators
- ❑ Optimal Supply Chain: Challenge to Operators (share development timelines / plans)

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Thank you!

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