

Production from SAGD Pads vs. SAGD Well Pairs: Role of Conductive Heating and Infill Drilling on Ultimate Recovery

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Abstract

Combined mechanisms and observed production patterns are becoming better understood based on data from maturing SAGD production pads. Evidence is provided from multiple operators indicating that production later in the well life cycle in a particular well pair may be associated with another well pair, another portion of the pad or adjacent pad, and not necessarily from the immediate vicinity of the well pair. The economic reality is that no in-situ operator drills a single SAGD well pair to obtain commercially viable production. Instead, multiple well pairs on contiguous pads provide the benefits of multiple recovery mechanisms resulting in enhanced recovery from oil sands reservoirs. Recovery factors on the order of 50% to 70% are realized by longer-term production on a pad basis due to the combined production mechanisms of steam chamber amalgamation, conductive heating with gas push, infill wells and an effective wind down strategy.

References Cited

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