

Corrosion and Protection of High Strength Low Alloy Steel in Oilfield Water Injection System

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Abstract—There is serious scaling and corrosion in water injection line of Liaohe oil field. By analyzing water quality, it is learned that water quality of Liaohe oil field was alkaline, and its alkalinity was relatively high, containing much calcium ion, magnesium ion, chloride ion, sulfate ion, sulfate ion, saltness. The scales on the specimens of the water injection line mostly consists of calcium carbonate, with a little of sulfate scale and iron rust next. Based on simulation experiment, TH-7 was the most effective scale and corrosion inhibitor. When the concentration of TH-7 was 40mg/L, anti-scaling rate was 93.62%, anti-corrosive rate was 92.86% and corrosion rate was 0.052 mm/a. Good results have been achieved in field application.

Keywords: high strength low alloy steel; scaling; corrosion; scale and corrosion inhibitor.

I. INTRODUCTION

Scaling and corrosion is one of the most serious problems in oil field water injection system [1,2]. In some areas of Liaohe oil field, serious scaling has emerged in the water injection line, injection well line and under the well. The brown and red powder-like deposit on the inner surface of water injection line and the light gray compact-sheet-like scale on the inner surface of injection well wall shorten the inner diameter of pipelines, reducing water flow section area, increasing water flow resistance and reducing transmission capacity. Black residua deposits on the bottom of water injection well, blocking injection pipe, increasing injection pressure and affecting water injection efficiency [3]. In addition, pipeline scaling causes serious corrosion beneath the scale. Scaling and corrosion cause a large number of pipelines to be useless [4]. As a result, the pipelines experience perforation many times, making pipelines disabled ahead of time and disrupting the normal production of oil field.

II. SCALING AND CORROSION ANALYSIS OF WATER INJECTION LINE

A. Water Quality Analysis.

There are two water resources in Liaohe oil field: one is underground water (clear water); the other is the refilling purified sewage from the oil field production. Sewage and clear water are mixed in production to be refilled. Water quality of Liaohe oil field was analyzed by the Sulin Classification [5].

According to Table 1, Liaohe oil field filling water quality belongs to NaHCO_3 type, standing for good continental facies, closeness deposit environment, showing that water is alkaline, and that Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , salt concentration and total alkalinity are high, corrosive Cl^- and SO_4^{2-} content are rather high.

TABLE I. THE RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLE ANALYSIS

Water Quality Content[$\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$]									pH
Na^+	Ca^{2+}	Mg^{2+}	Ba^{2+}	Fe^{2+}	Cl^-	SO_4^{2-}	$\text{CO}_3^{2-}+\text{HCO}_3^-$	Total Salt Content	
1400	30.8	7.3	2.5	3.5	1000	12	450	4000	8.2

B. Scaling Sample Analysis.

By using XRD, scaling sample of Liaohe oil field filling pipelines is analyzed. According to Fig. 1, the scaling sample contains CaCO_3 , sulfate scale, carbonate scale and rusts such as Fe_2O_3 .

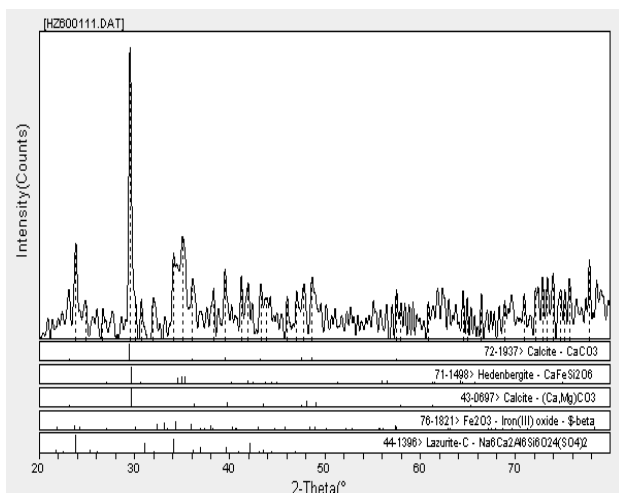


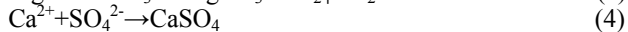
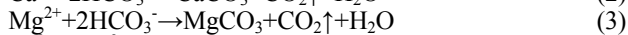
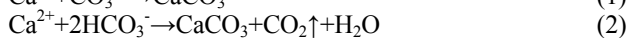
Figure 1. The results by XRD analysis

C. The Mechanism of Scaling and Corrosion

Scaling is the solid substance separated out from water on certain condition. It is usually low-solubility inorganic salt. There are several common scales, which are among the most harmful ones. They include carbonate scale(main content is CaCO_3), sulfate scale(main contents are CaSO_4 , BaSO_4 , SrSO_4 , etc), iron compound scale(main content is Fe_2O_3 , FeO , $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$). Oil field stratum water contains plenty of K^+ , Ca^{2+} , Na^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Sr^{2+} , Cl^- , CO_3^{2-} , HCO_3^- , SO_4^{2-} and other ions. When water environment changes, the saturation balance of ions will be broken and inorganic salt scale will be produced.

1) Mechanism of Scaling.

In Liaohe oil field, the mixed filling of clear water and sewage is applied. The filling water has high dissolved solids and contains many kinds of ions. Different types of water, during the refilling process or mixing, would destabilize the once stable system and the deposits forms scales in the inner surface of pipelines because of the changes of environment condition temperature, pressure and so on. The equations of generating carbonate scale and sulfate scale are as follows [6.7]:



Usually most oil field stratum water contains no or very little CO_3^{2-} , whereas HCO_3^- accounts for the main part. Therefore, (2) and (3) is more representative to indicate the reaction of carbonate deposit.

2) Mechanism of Corrosion Beneath Scaling.

Layers of scales deposit on the inner surface of filling pipelines. The tiny bore on the layers of scales would be the material passage for the corrosion reaction to cause corrosion beneath scale. When part of pipeline inner surface is covered with scales, relative closed micro-environment will be available. It is very hard for oxygen to pass the layers of scales and enter the metal interface beneath the layers of scales. Therefore, with

the process of corrosion reaction, layers of scales become oxygen poor area. This area, with other areas of external layers of scales, will form oxygen concentration cell. Usually corrosion layers have selective of negative ions. And metal positive ions could hardly diffuse outside. Thus with the accumulation of Fe^{2+} , positive charges are surplus to lead external Cl^- to the inner for the balance of charge. Hydrolyzation of metal chloride will acidify the environment beneath layers of scales, speeding up the corrosion beneath layers of scales. The block system autocatalytic mechanism is same as crevice corrosion [8].

III. PREVENTIVE MEASURE

The compound medicament composed of polyphosphate, organic phosphate, zinc salts and polymer dispersants was adopted for this experiment [9.10]. Thereinto, polyphosphate and zinc salts belong to cathode inhibitor and could deposit on the metal surface to hold back the corrosion on the metal surface. organic phosphate, by complexing solubilization, low dose effect and other mechanisms, to prevent the scaling ions from being separated out and depositing on the surface of the equipment; the main function of polymer dispersant is to diffuse dirt particle and stop the formation of scales. Compare three compound medicaments of FE-3, TH-6, TH-7 and select the best scale and corrosion inhibitor.

A. Experiment Method.

As for the experiment, Petroleum and Natural gas industry standard SY/T 5673-93(oilfield scale inhibitor performance evaluation method) and SY/T 5273-91(oilfield water injection corrosion inhibitor evaluation method) were applied. The 20G steel pieces ($50 \times 25 \times 2\text{mm}$) which have been rinsed with ethanol and acetone were put into the scale inhibitor-filled corrosive liquid and the no- scale inhibitor-filled corrosive liquid respectively, and they are immersed at 60°C for 72 hours. Then they are taken out and dried and weighed. Anti-scaling rate and corrosion rate are calculated according to the steel piece weightlessness of pre-and postal corrosion and the quality of steel pieces before corrosion. The three compound medicaments of FE-3, TH-6 and TH-7 was experimented when the concentration is 10 mg/L. Then choose the medicament with the optimal scale and corrosion inhibiting rate, the smallest corrosion rate. Then the chosen scale and corrosion inhibitor was experimented when the concentration is 20mg/L, 30 mg/L, 40 mg/L and 50 mg/L.

B. Results of the Experiment.

Fig. 2 shows that the anti-scaling rate and anti-corrosive rate increase remarkably while the corrosion rate slow down from the no-medicament solution to TH-7. In addition, Fig. 3 shows the same result as Fig. 2 which means TH-7 is the best medicament for scaling prevention and corrosion tardiness. Furthermore TH-7 is the suitable scale and corrosion inhibitor for Liaohe oil field.

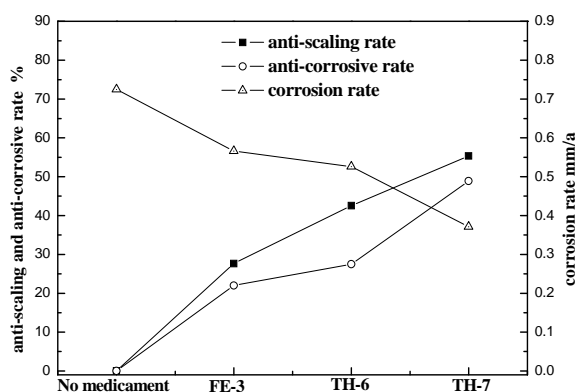


Figure 2. The anti-scaling rate, anti-corrosive rate and corrosion rate at different medicaments

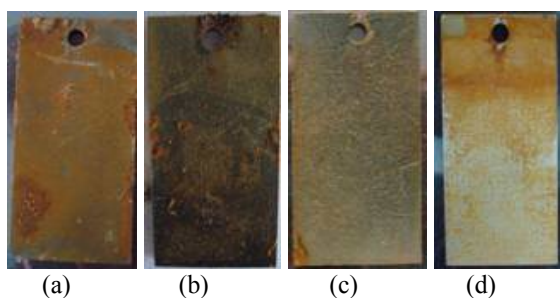


Figure 3. The Macro morphology of samples at 10mg/L in different solutions: no medicament(a), FE-3 (b), TH-6(c), TH-7(d)

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 show the concentration of the medicament increases from 20mg/L to 40mg/L. The anti-scaling rate and anti-corrosive rate increase fast at first and slow down afterwards. The concentration between 40-50 mg/L is the best recipe for both economic aspect and corrosion prevention aspect. TH-7 not only meets the requirements of petrochemical industry, but also meets the economical requirement. It can prevent the scaling and corrosion in sewage system.

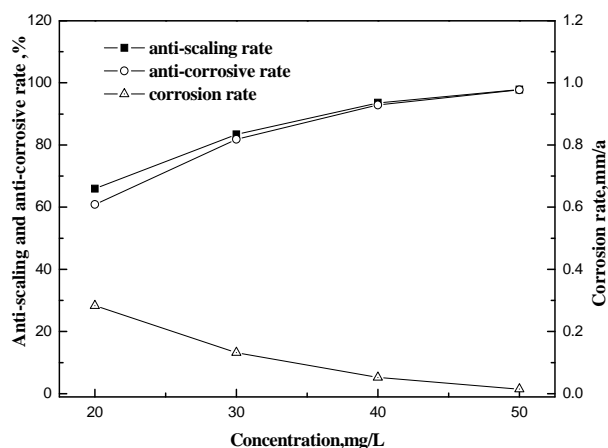


Figure 4. The anti-scaling rate ,anti-corrosive rate and corrosion rate of TH-7 at different concentration

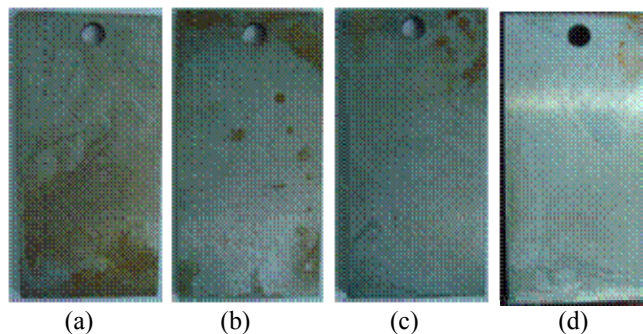


Figure 5. The samples of TH-7 solution at different concentration: 20mg/L(a), 30mg/L(b), 40 mg/L(c), 50 mg/L(d)

IV. ON SITE EXPERIMENT

A. Experimental method.

On site experiment is held in the sewage treatment room in Gao'Er Lian factory. Two reserved valves of drain pipeline and bypass line are used to connect with the experiment pipeline whose material is identical with the material of the sewage reinjection system. The temperature of the experimental sewage is controlled at 60°C and flow rate is at 150m³/day by installing valves on the flowmeter. Give medicament treatment to the bypass line by using the TH-7(concentration 45mg/L). Evaluate the best composition of the on-site experiment result by analyzing the corrosion and scaling the comparative pipelines.

B. Experimental result.

Fig. 6 shows that TH-7 works well in the on-site experiment. The corrosion rate reduces from 0.81mm/a to 0.05mm/a. The anti-scaling rate and anti-corrosive rate are both above 90% which is identical with the experiment result.

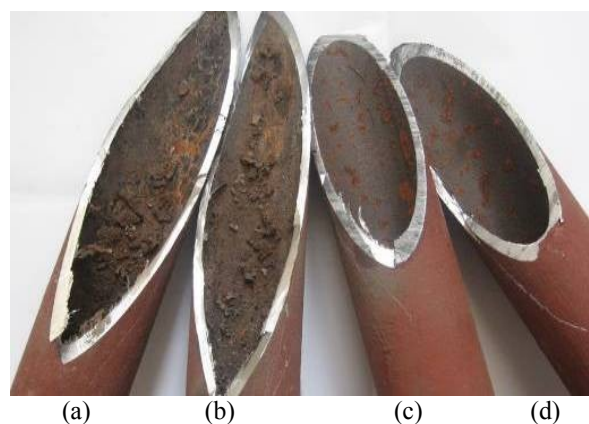


Figure6. The contrast about before and after medicament: before medicament (a) and (b), after medicament (c) and (d)

V. CONCLUSIONS

- The water quality of Liaohe oil field is NaHCO₃ type which is alkaline. High level of Ca²⁺, Mg²⁺, salt and alkali, Cl⁻ and SO₄²⁻.

- The on-site sample of the scale mainly contains CaCO_3 , sulfate scale, carbonate scale and Fe_2O_3 etc.
- The clear and sewage water, which cause the sediment, are used by the oil field. The sediment scales on the surface of the pipelines. The corrosion by the scaling is called block system autocatalysis which is the same as the development of the crevice corrosion.
- TH-7 is suitable for the water of Liaohe oil field and the result of using it is remarkable on site. When the concentration is 40mg/L, the anti-scaling rate is 93.62%, anti-corrosive rate is 92.86% and the corrosion rate is 0.052mm/a. The result shows that TH-7 meets the requirements of petrochemical industry. The concentration between 40-50 mg/L is the best recipe.

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