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With the new valve and capillary line installed and all connections fully secured, normal continuous chemical injection was restarted. The entire installation process took two days, a significant improvement over even a simple workover, which might require two to three weeks of downtime.

The well has been back up and running without incident since September 2013, with a new chemical injection line affording reliable and continuous chemical delivery and corrosion control. The full functionality of a safety valve has been maintained and controlled using the existing control line and full production has been restored, allowing the sulphur treatment plant to maintain optimal operations.

Weatherford has conducted similar installations in the North Sea, the Middle East and Asia Pacific, and to date more than one million feet of capillary string has been run via the Renaissance method. However, this Canadian chemical injection restoration represented one of the deepest capillary runs to date, and the first conducted in the Western Hemisphere. This successful installation in a highly sour

gas well has proven the concept to the operator, who now plans to run further jobs both in Canada and other regions where chemical injection challenges are common. ■

Ceramic coating new corrosion fighter

Corrosion accounts for over 25 per cent of failures, according to a recent NACE International report. NACE also estimates pipe repair or replacement costs at more than \$7 billion per year. This figure can double based on lost revenue and spill/leak clean-up costs.

“Corrosion is a major challenge in our industry for external floating roof tanks, tank interiors, to above- and below-grade piping systems,” said Scott Justice, tank inspection division manager of Bolin Enterprises Inc.

While traditional corrosion protection involves short-lived, physically bonded coverings of substrate surfaces such as tapes,

three-part coating systems (zinc, epoxy and urethane) and cathodic protection, these merely lengthen the time before steel inevitably rusts.

The alternative is a new category of chemically bonded phosphate ceramics from EonCoat LLC that can stop corrosion with minimal downtime for application.

Shane Bartko, director of sales at Tko Specialty Surfaces Inc., a Calgary-based tank, pipeline, and structure maintenance contractor, has used the ceramic coating as well.

“With a typical corrosion coating, you have to blast to white metal to prepare the surface,” said Bartko. “With the ceramic coating, you typically only have to do a NACE 3 commercial brush blast.”

Bartko explained that many polyurethanes or epoxies require days’ worth of cure time for each coat applied. With the ceramic coating, return to service can be in as little as one hour.

“That kind of speed in getting an oil and gas facility producing again can potentially save millions per day in reduced downtime,” said Bartko. ■



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