

Fracturing Fluid Flowback Reuse Feasibility Study and Decision Tool

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Water has become a major economic factor in current fracturing technologies. The industry has learned that water need not be fresh, but may be reused if the chemistry is correct or can be adapted.

This project identified a methodology, in the form of a Decision Tree and Guidance Manual, and supporting Appendices and Case Studies, so that producers can work with service companies to determine the limiting factors and mitigation or control scenarios for using water with high salinity for making up fracturing fluid. The methodology and technologies that have been suggested incorporate the science and practice of hydraulic fracturing with fracturing fluid management and treatment technologies.

Policy Issue

The degree of conservatism current in some regulatory guidelines can be linked to some unnecessary remedial efforts throughout the petroleum industry. the development of accepted scientific studies to reduce these conservatisms would ultimately lead to a

reduction in perceived waste going to landfill and a reduction in remedial costs.

Knowledge Gap

It will focus on recycling and reuse of fracture flow-back water, and will assess the benefits and limitations of each technology from an environmental, technical and cost perspective.

Final Report

Decision Tree

Guidance Manual