

# Heavy Oil Drag Reducing Agent (DRA): Increasing Pipeline Deliveries of Heavy Crude Oil

Laura Thomas – CSPI Sales Lead, Americas Tim Burden – Senior Engineer, CSPI Technology

**ConocoPhillips Specialty Products Inc.** 









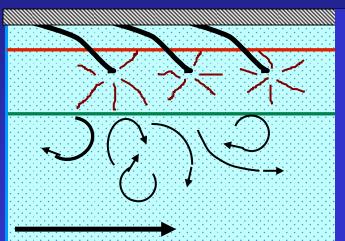
## **Drag Reduction Mechanism**

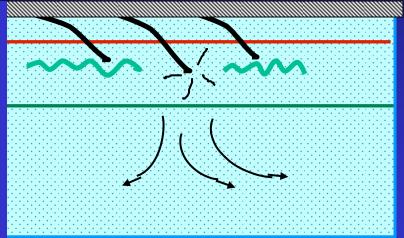
### w/DRA

Laminar Sublayer

Buffer Region

Turbulent Core





**Diminished turbulent bursts** 



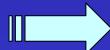
# DRA's (Traditional)

Light/Moderate Crude Oil



- Low viscosity
- High Turbulence
- Excellent performance

**Heavy Crude Oil** 



- High viscosity
- Low turbulence
- Poor or no performance



# The Key to Performance:

Interaction between the DRA polymer and the crude oil

Crude Oil Sample	LiquidPower™ Flow Improver Compatibility	ExtremePower™ Flow Improver Compatibility	API Gravity
West Texas Intermediate	High	Moderate	41.6
West Texas Sour	High	Moderate	31.6
Basrah	High	Moderate	31.0
Corocoro	None	High	25.1
Albian	None	High	22.4
Marlim Blend	High	High	22.2
Maya	None	High	21.9
Bow River	None	High	21.8
Apiay	Moderate	Moderate	21.8
WCS (Western Canadian Select)	None	High	20.9
Castilla	None	High	18.0
Merey	None	High	16.0
SJVH (San Joaquin Valley Heavy)	None	High	13.0
Petrozuata	None	High	9.1



# **Apiay – El Porvenir Pipeline**

16-inch, 120 km, 91,000 barrel linefill



Source: World Energy Atlas 2007 Edition

**Batching 2 crude oils:** 

Apiay ("light", 21 °API)
Castilla blend ("heavy", 18 °API)

~35% "light" / 65% "heavy"

Base Capacity: 94,000 BPD avg.

**LP™ 300 Flow Improver: 103,000 BPD** 

(in Apiay batches only)



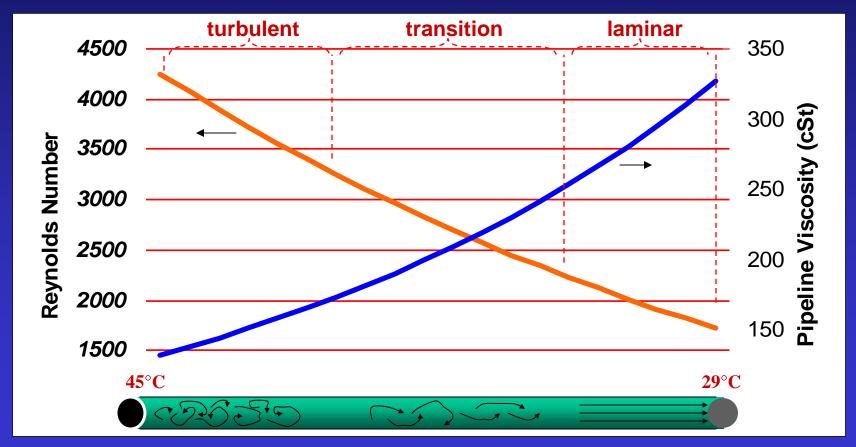
Apiay-El Porvenir pipeline samples were evaluated for interaction in the lab.

Crude Oil Sample	LiquidPower™ Flow Improver Compatibility	ExtremePower™ Flow Improver Compatibility	API Gravity
West Texas Intermediate	High	Moderate	41.6
West Texas Sour	High	gh Moderate	
Basrah	High	Moderate	31.0
Corocoro	None	High	25.1
Albian	None	High	22.4
Marlim Blend	High	High	22.2
Maya	None	High	21.9
Bow River	None	High	21.8
Apiay	Moderate	Moderate	21.8
WCS (Western Canadian Select)	None	High	20.9
Castilla	None	High	18.0
Merey	None	High	16.0
SJVH (San Joaquin Valley Heavy)	None	High	13.0
Petrozuata	None	High	9.1



# Pipeline Regime Profile

With Castilla blend



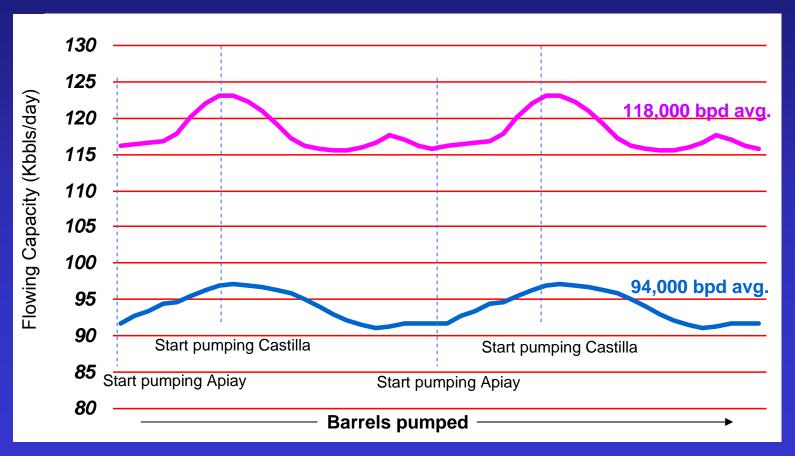
Apiay pump station

Monterrey pump station



# Pipeline Model – Capacity Trend with Batch Cycle

Basis: 70Kbbls Castilla blend → 31Kbbls Apiay →





# Field Test Results

October, 2007

Performance exceeded model

Achieved 26-32% throughput over baseline operation

Pipeline System Condition	Baseline (Thousands of BPD)	ExtremePower™ DRA Dosage (ppm <sub>v</sub> )	LP™ 300 DRA Dosage (ppm <sub>v</sub> )	Model (Thousands of BPD)	Result (Thousands of BPD)	Percent Flow Increase		
Test Pipeline Operations – ExtremePower™ injected into Castilla Blend								
100% Castilla Blend	91.2							
ExtremePower™ injection		70		107	110.4	21.0		
Normal Pipeline O	peration – Ex	tremePower™ injec	ted into each c	rude				
65% Castilla Blend/35 % Apiay	93.6							
ExtremePower™ injection in each crude		68		118.0	121.0	29.3		
Normal Pipeline O	peration – Ex	tremePower™ inject	ed into Castilla	, LP™ 300 inj	ected into Ap	iay		
65% Castilla Blend/35 % Apiay	93.6							
LP™ 300 in Apaiy			40	*	103.0	10.0		
Combination injection 1		47	47	113.0	118.0	26.0		
Combination injection 2		75	75	118.0	123.4	31.8		



# Refinery Impact Testing

### Desalter Testing

- Tested at 40 ppm to 300 ppm
- No negative impact on dewatering rates

## Wastewater Quality

- Lab Oil & Grease levels did not increase
- Refinery COD and Oil & Grease values unchanged during testing

#### Distillation Products

- WCS crude oil distilled → Gasoline, Jet Fuel, Diesel cuts
- Refinery lab testing showed no difference in quality of product cuts from treated versus untreated oil

## Thermal Decomposition

- 700 °F thermal degradation
- No organic acids; all decomposition products benign



## **Summary**

- ★ New DRA, ExtremePower™ Flow Improver developed
  - Strong interaction with heavy crude oil (<23 °API)</li>
  - Performs in transition flow (N<sub>RE</sub> 2100+)
- \* Successful field trial and application with Ecopetrol
  - 50 ppm<sub>v</sub> ⇒ ~25% flow increase
- ★ No refinery impact observed from lab testing and field application.



## Acknowledgements

CSPI would like to thank both Ecopetrol and Delrio for partnering with us on the flow improver test, working with us through the test protocol development, injecting ExtremePower™ Flow Improver into the pipeline and allowing CSPI to share the results of the test and field application.



