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Solid Expandable Tubular Technology in Mature Basins

For years, the reduction of tubular inside diameter (ID), or “telescoping effect,” limited the exploration and production of oil and gas. Using conventional technology, operators faced significant loss of ID in the course of the normal drilling process, during re-entry and deepening of existing wells, or when installing additional casing strings to remediate well problems. The industry has confronted this dilemma with innovative problem solving by using the revolutionary solid expandable tubular technology. Successful applications of this technology have proven its reliability in a variety conditions and environments. Solid expandable tubulars continue to prove their success as a solution to problems involving gas shut-off, subsidence repair, water shut-off, lost circulation, and remediation of wells slated for abandonment. This paper will discuss the development of solid expandable tubular technology from theory to reality. Case histories will be cited to illustrate how solid expandable tubular systems are applied in a myriad of remedial challenges. In addition, this paper will explore how solid expandable tubulars can be deployed to overcome problems prevalent in more mature basins.