



# Gas Well Deliquification Workshop

Sheraton Hotel, Denver, Colorado

February 27 – March 2, 2011

## Plunger Lift Remote Surveillance Improves Shale Well Production

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**Business Development**



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# INTRODUCTION

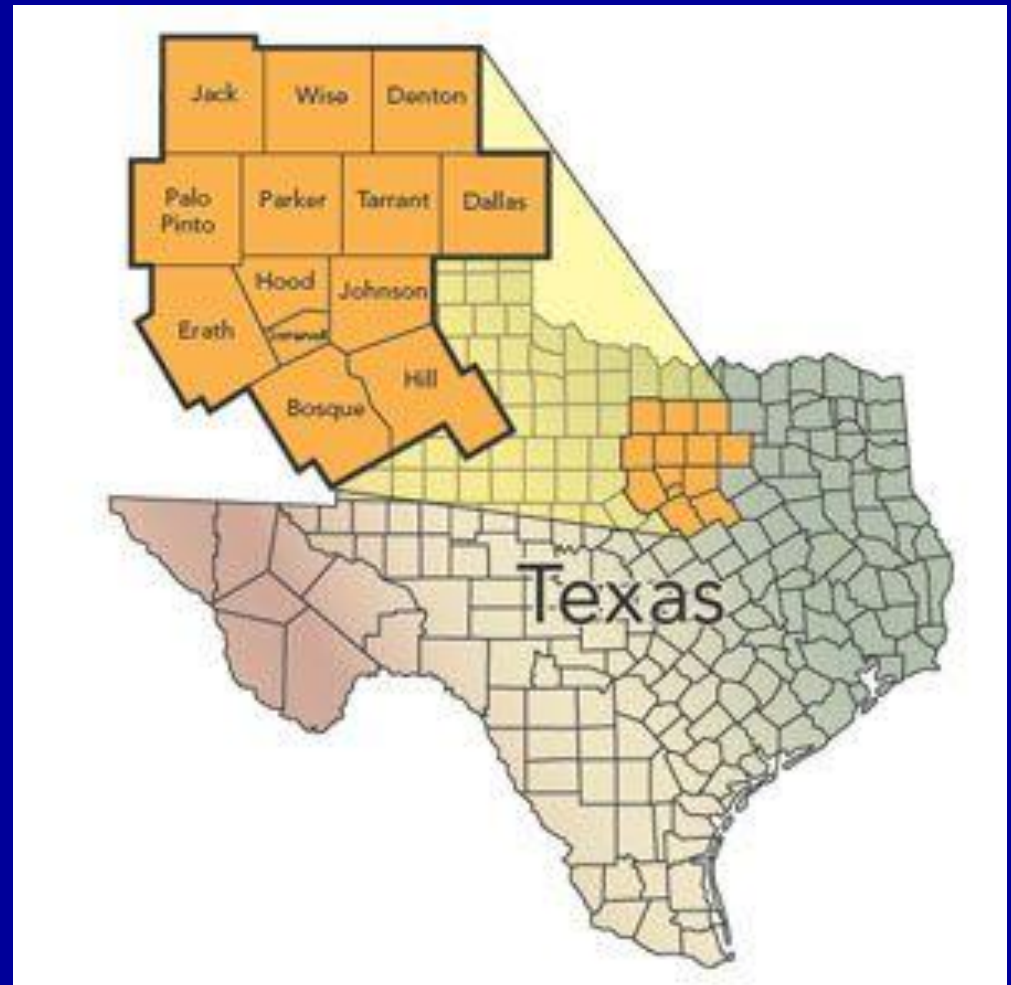
## XTO Fort Worth Operations

### OPERATIONS

- North/South Areas
- 7 Foremen
- 50+ operators
- 1900 wells

#### Daily Averages

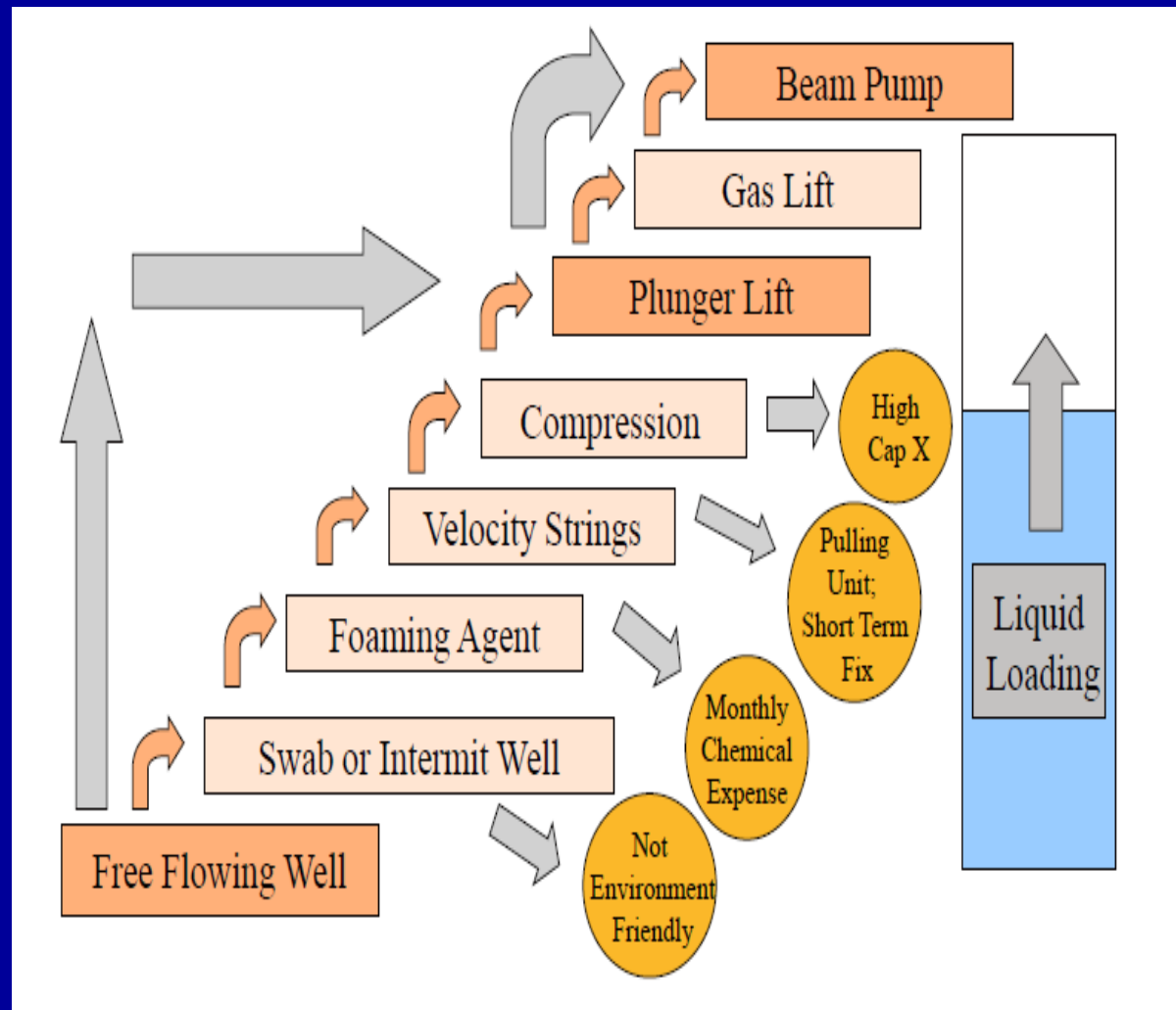
- 900,000 Mcf
- 110,000 Bbls Water



# INTRODUCTION

## 2008 Dilemma

- Over 90% of wells in US are liquid loaded. (Marathon Analysis)
- Gas lift effective, yet costly. Overused.
- Venting and foaming agents inconsistent.
- 100 wells on stand alone PL. Limited results.
- Decided to explore plunger lift with remote monitoring and control.



# INTRODUCTION

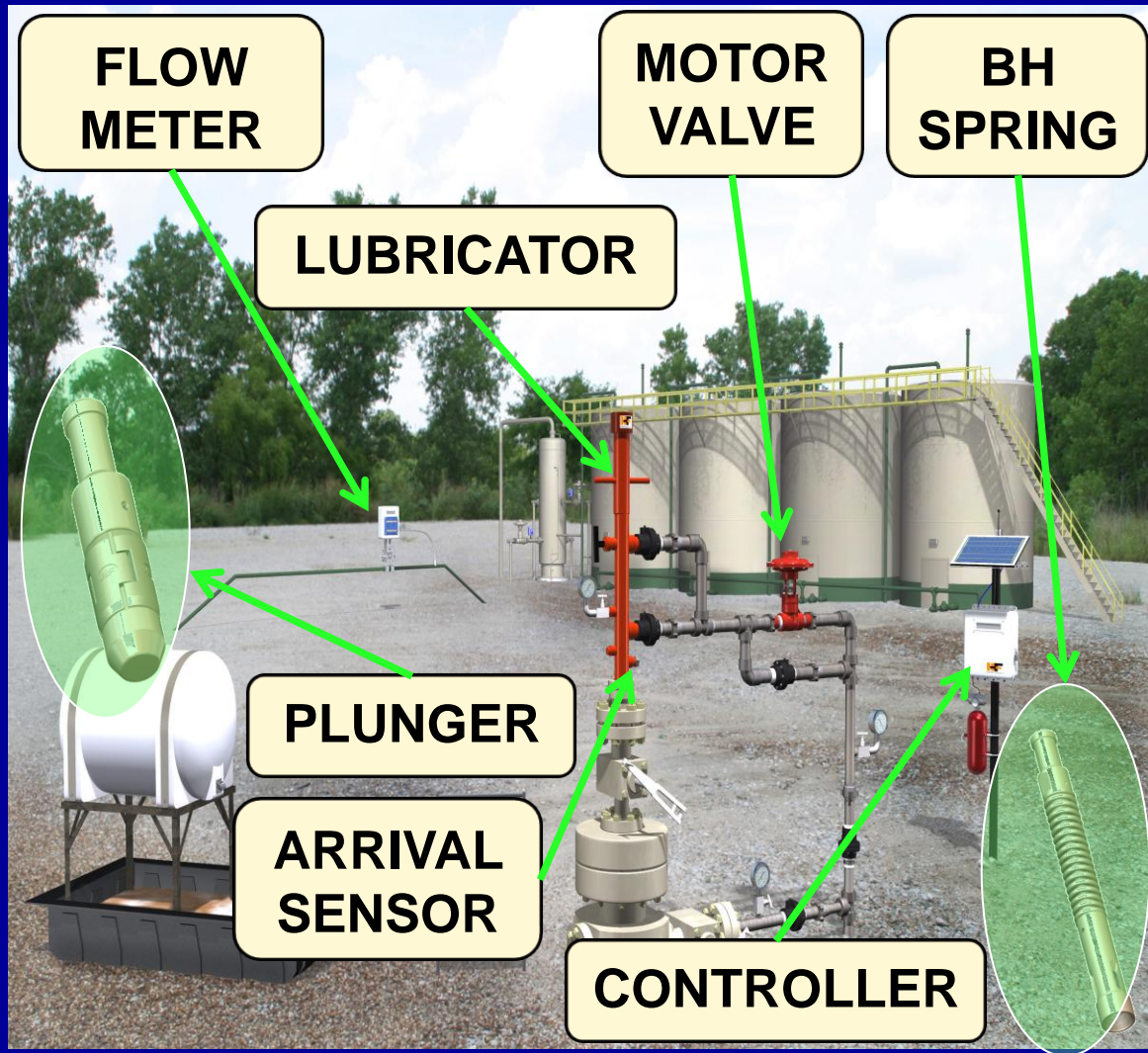
## Objectives

### PROCESS

- Installed 50 systems with telemetry from various suppliers.
- Utilized real time data for root cause analysis.

### GOALS

- Improve production.
- Reduce downtime.
- Reduce operational cost.
- Rapid payback.



# INTRODUCTION

## Examples

	PRODUCTION	DOWNTIME	VENTING	REPLACE PLUNGER
<b>WELL # 1</b>				
<b>BEFORE</b>	<b>148 Mcf / d</b>	<b>22 %</b>	<b>3 X per Wk</b>	<b>Quarterly</b>
<b>AFTER</b>	<b>186 Mcf / d</b>	<b>8 %</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
	<b>(25.7% Increase)</b>	<b>(63.6% Decrease)</b>		
<b>WELL # 2</b>				
<b>BEFORE</b>	<b>82 Mcf / d</b>	<b>60 %</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Quarterly</b>
<b>AFTER</b>	<b>212 Mcf / d</b>	<b>10 %</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
	<b>(158 % Increase)</b>	<b>(83.3% Decrease)</b>		

# INTRODUCTION

Inclusive Lifting Cost (\$ / Mcf)

LIFT METHOD	LIFTING COST COMPARISON (\$ / Mcf)		
	MIN	MAX	AVERAGE
Gas Lift	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.17
Plunger Lift – No Telemetry	\$ 0.25	\$ 5.80	\$ 2.27
Plunger Lift – With Telemetry	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.50

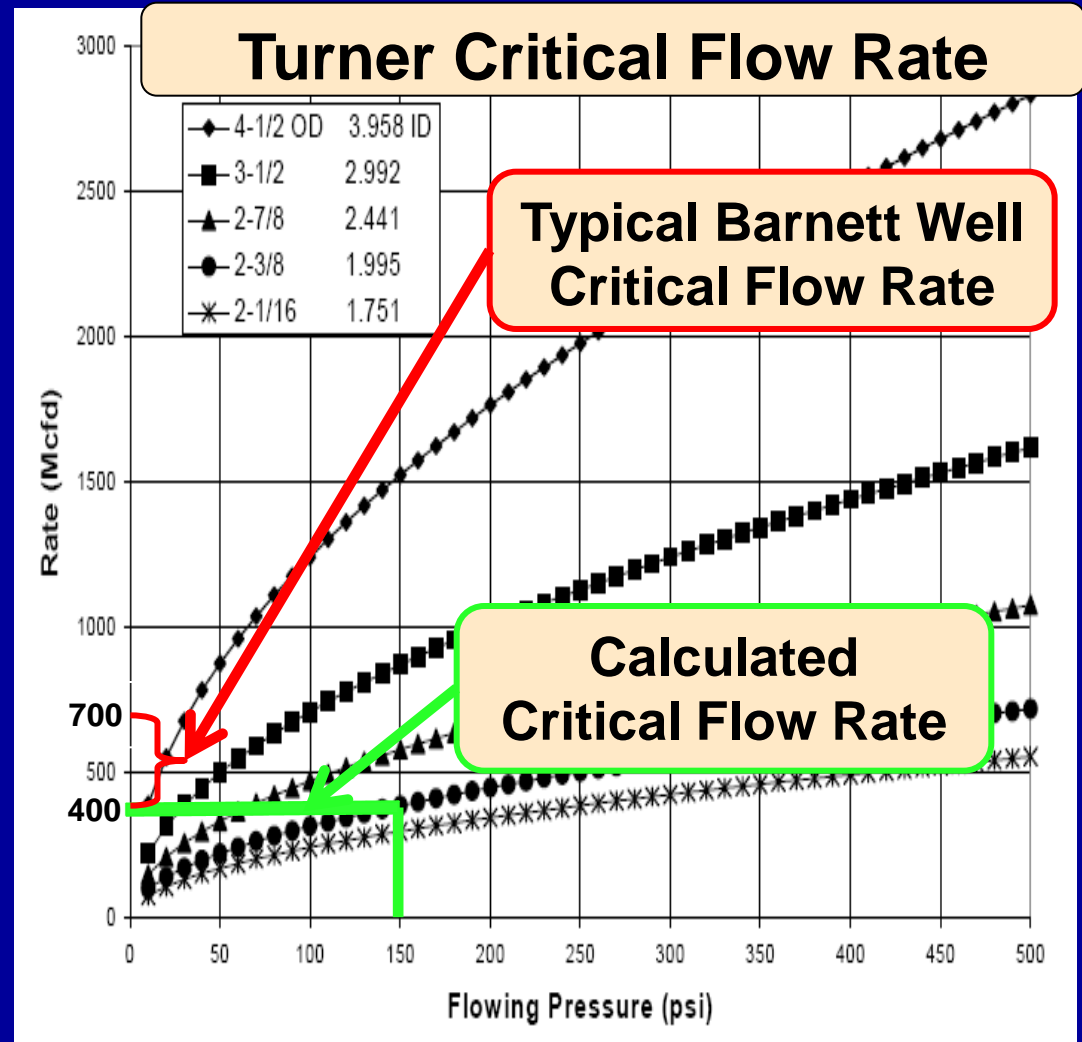
- **Lifting costs reduced up to 75% with automation !**
- **Optimization provides additional value, discussed later**
- **Downtime occurs at lower frequency and duration**
- **Coordination between field and office proved crucial**

# WELL CANDIDATE SELECTION

## Signs of Loading

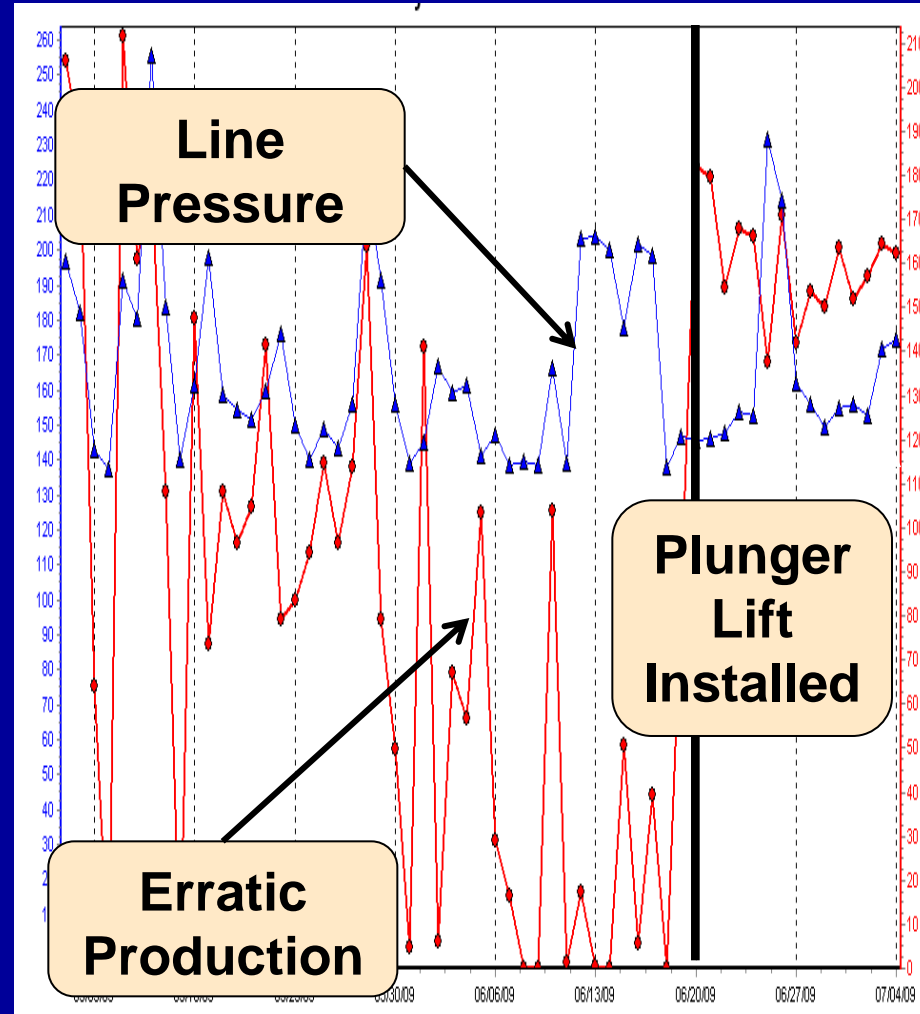
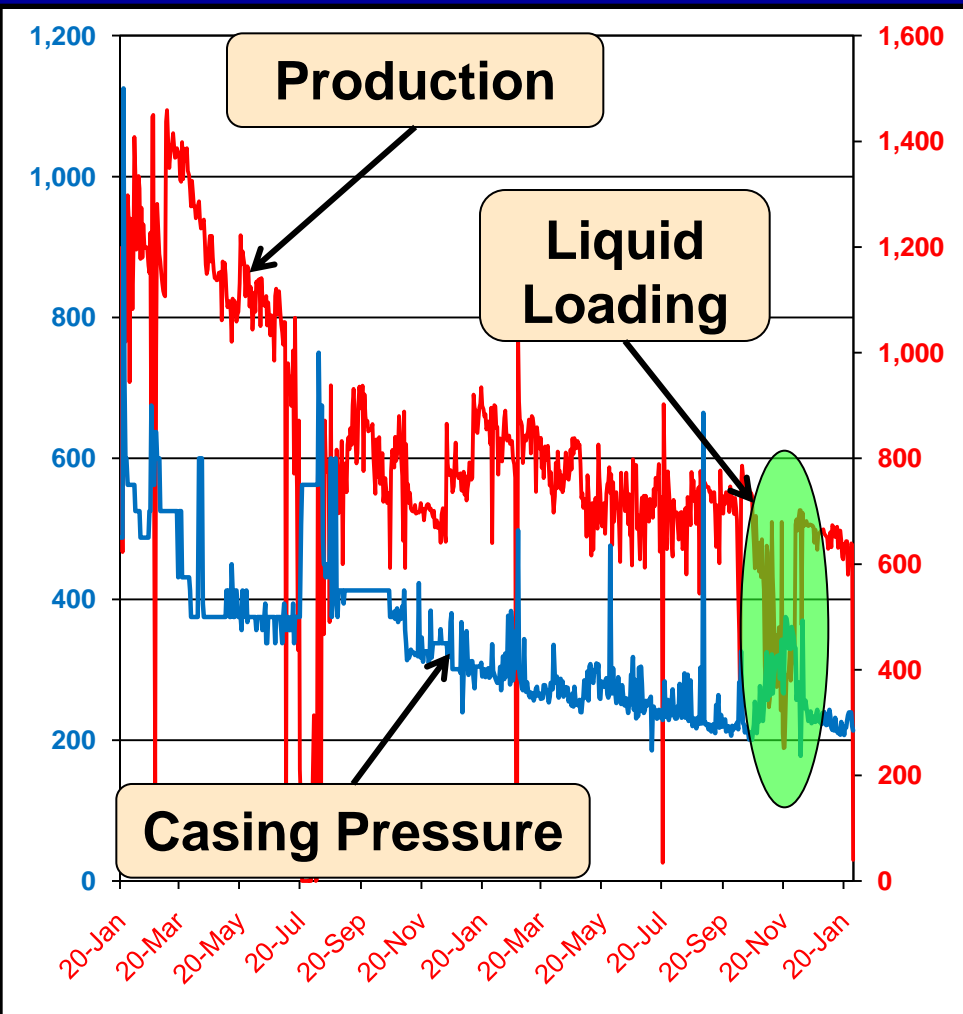
### Critical Flow Rate

- Minimum flow rate at which liquid is carried to the surface.
- Experience indicates Turner under predicts onset of loading.
- Loading occurs down hole long before visible at surface.
- Guo et al. predicts critical rate based on down hole conditions
  - ~750 Mcf/d



# WELL CANDIDATE SELECTION

## Signs of Loading



# WELL CANDIDATE SELECTION

## Flow Rate vs Liquid Produced

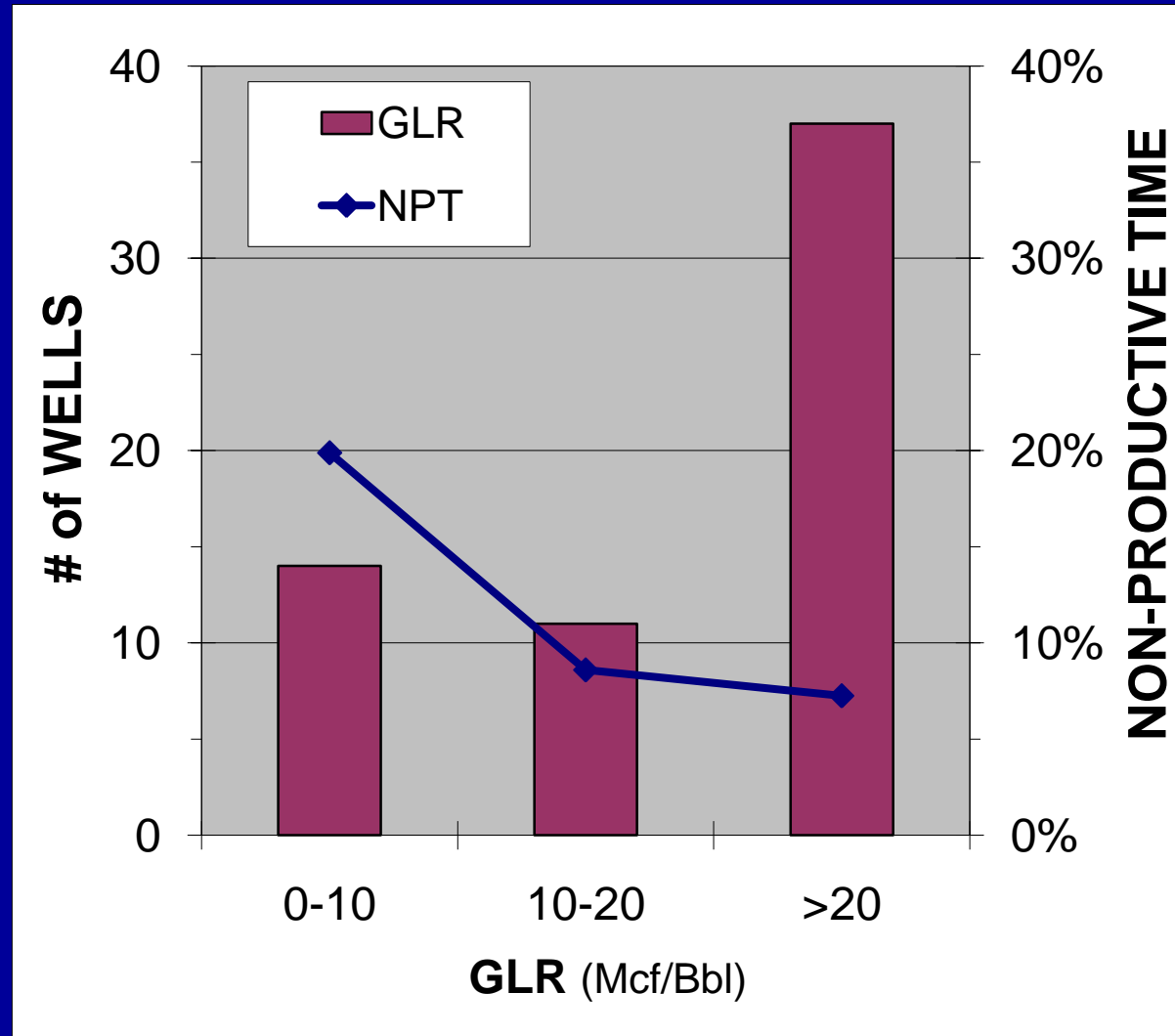
WELL	MCF/D	BBLs/D	GLR	LINE PRESSURE	LIFT PRESSURE (CP-LP)
Well # 1	550	204	2.7	135	500
Well # 2	550	94	5.8	180	500
Well # 3	300	61	4.9	140	720
Well # 4	550	56	9.8	60	540
Well # 5	480	54	8.9	70	400
Well # 6	600	50	12.0	180	500
Well # 7	200	35	5.7	320	540
Well # 8	477	30	15.9	140	300
Well # 9	460	27	17.0	130	300

# WELL CANDIDATE SELECTION

## Gas to Liquid Ratio vs Non Productive Time

- Low GLR wells can prove difficult !
- Low GLR wells with higher flow rates are easier


Non-Productive Time (NPT) is Unplanned Downtime



# POWER OF SURVEILLANCE

## Benefits

- Leverage expert operator skills over many wells
- Daily pinpoint lease operator top priorities
- Remote manual close (weather, pipeline, tank levels)
- Real time alarm notification (tank levels, line pressure, fast arrivals, well shut-in, etc)
- Faster troubleshooting – DATA !
- Rapid leak detection
- Detect some EFM calibration issues
- Reduce equipment damage



Station Name : **Well # 2 H**  
Alarm Text : **Low Sales Press**  
Time Logged : **Feb 4, 2011, 7:06 AM**  
Value : **32.9**  
Set point : **45.0**

**KNOW NOW, ACT NOW, PROFIT MORE!**

# POWER OF SURVEILLANCE Tools

Well Names

Well Name	Last Polled		Batt. Volts	State	Time Remain.	Pressures (psi)				Flow Rate	Velocity (ft/min)	Today			Yesterday			Target	
	Date	Time				Tub	Case	Sales	Gas			Arr.	Fails	Gas	Arr.	Fails	Gas	%	
01/26/11	08:42:07	12.8	Plunger Falling	00:06:06	437	497	154	0	477	26	8	0	362	18	0	320	113.1		
01/26/11	08:41:26	11.9	Plunger Falling	00:10:23	354	369	151	0	194	40	4	0	291	13	0	450	64.6		
12/22/10	09:29:58	11.8	Manual Mode	00:00:00	1	478	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		
01/30/11	19:09:24	13.1	Manual Mode	00:00:00	-4	465	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	0.0		
01/31/11	08:52:38	12.9	Production Mode	01:48:00	63	174	75	575	529	63	4	0	509	10	0	700	72.7		
01/31/11	09:24:49	13.1	Manual Mode	00:00:00	542	542	56	0	0	3	9	3	350	13	0	0	0.0		
01/28/11	13:39:10	14.1	Plunger Falling	00:20:35	485	641	94	0	887	19	5	1	227	15	3	360	63.0		

**WELL SUMMARY SCREEN**

**REAL TIME SNAPSHOT**

**PRODUCTION !**

10043

67° F Temp | 13.1 Volts | 10:33:28 | 01/26/2011

**Lift Pressure Building** | 02:17:37 | Start Time

0 | VALVE A : CLOSED | VALVE B : DISABLED | 01:44:53 | Elapsed Time

02:44:40 | Time Remaining

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177.53 psig | 1.766 Bbls | 571.9 Act | 518.7 Req'd | 500.0 Adj'd

**LIQUID LOAD (CP - TP)** | **LIFT PRESSURE (CP - SLP)**

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**TUBING PRESSURE** | **CASING PRESSURE** | **SALES PRESSURE**

626.6 psig | 706.7 psig | 134.7 psig

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**ALARM SETTINGS** | **CONTROL SETTINGS**

High Line Pressure | 300 | Fall Time | 00:25 (HH:MM)

Low Line Pressure | 60 | Build Mode | Lift Pressure > 500 psi

No Arrival # | 0 | Adjusted Build Value | 500 psi

Flow Mode | Flow Rate < 1000.0 (Mscf/D)

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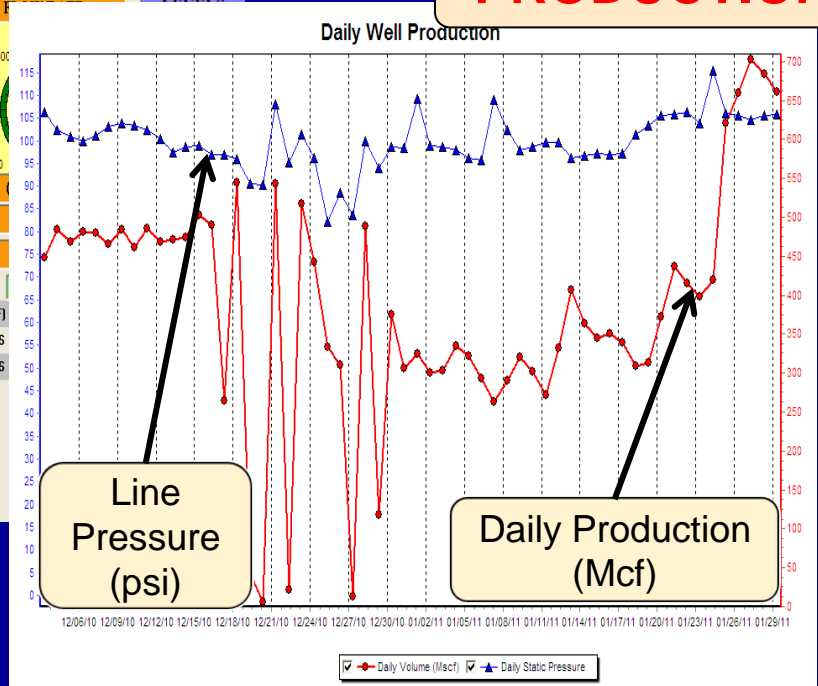
**NO ARRIVAL ADJUSTMENT**

Plunger Rise Time Allowed (HH:MM) | 01:30

Valve B Max Open Time (HH:MM) | Disabled

"No Arrivals" Allowed Before Shut-in | 2

"No Arrival" Build Adjustment Factor | 50 psi



**RIGHT INFORMATION  
RIGHT FORMAT  
ANYTIME  
ANYWHERE**

# POWER OF SURVEILLANCE Tools

## Plunger Lift Cycle Report

Station Name:  
Report Range: 02/01/11 08:00 To 02/02/11 14:43  
Site ID: 10058

Last Poll Time: 02-FEB-11 02:40PM  
Temperature: 30°F  
System Voltage: 13.6 V

**PRODUCTION !**

Run #	Time	AT CLOSE					Fluid in Tbg	AT OPEN					RUN DATA				PRODUCTION DATA		
		CP	TP	SLP	CP-TP			CP	TP	SLP	Act. Lift	Req'd Lift	Time (min)	Velocity (ft/min)	Good	Miss	Open Duration	Close Duration	Gas (Mscf)
5341	02/01/11 07:54AM	2	151	45	0.41	02/01/11 07:54AM	510	427	150	380	183	7.28	1050				01:54	10.2	0.0
5342	02/01/11 09:50AM	3	148	53	0.47	02/01/11 09:50AM	508	417	147	380	197	7.85	1000				01:44	11.7	0.0
5343	02/01/11 11:46AM	1	145	55	0.49	02/01/11 11:46AM	505	416	145	380	201	7.88	995				01:45	10.6	0.0
5344	02/01/11 01:57AM	434	381	146	53	02/01/11 01:42PM	504	413	144	380	197	7.58	1009				01:44	10.5	0.0
5345	02/01/11 01:53PM	431	382	144	49	02/01/11 03:34PM	501	416	141	380	187	7.40	1034	1		00:10	01:41	11.0	0.0
5346	02/01/11 03:45PM	430	381	140	49	02/01/11 05:24PM	499	411	139	380	186	7.42	1031	1		00:10	01:39	10.7	0.0
5347	02/01/11 05:35PM	428	375	137	53	02/01/11 07:12PM	497	409	137	380	193	7.67	998	1		00:11	01:36	10.6	0.0
5348	02/01/11 07:24PM	425	375	138	50	02/01/11 08:59PM	494	409	137	380	185	7.38	1036	1		00:10	01:34	10.7	0.0
5349	02/01/11 09:09PM	423	372	134	51	02/01/11 10:54PM	495	409	135	380	188	7.53	1015	1		00:11	01:44	10.4	0.0
5350	02/01/11 11:05PM	424	375	135	49	02/02/11 12:58AM	498	414	138	380	185	7.58	1009	1		00:11	01:53	10.0	0.0
5351	02/02/11 02:48AM	496	405	138	53	02/02/11 02:48AM	496	405	138	380	193	7.95	982	1		00:11	01:38	11.7	0.0
5352		496	405	138	50		496	405	138	380	191	7.63	1002	1		00:11	01:55	10.9	0.0
5353		496	405	138	49		496	405	138	380	210	8.35	916				05:37	11.9	0.0
5354		496	405	138	60		496	405	138	380	225	8.18	935				01:08	11.6	0.0
5355	02/02/11 12:18PM	454	410	158	44	02/02/11 12:18PM	454	410	158	380	176	6.63	1153				00:43	11.0	0.0
5356	02/02/11 01:10PM	433	398	144	35	02/02/11 02:30PM	498	425	138	381	155	6.35	1204				01:20	10.5	0.0

**Cycle #**

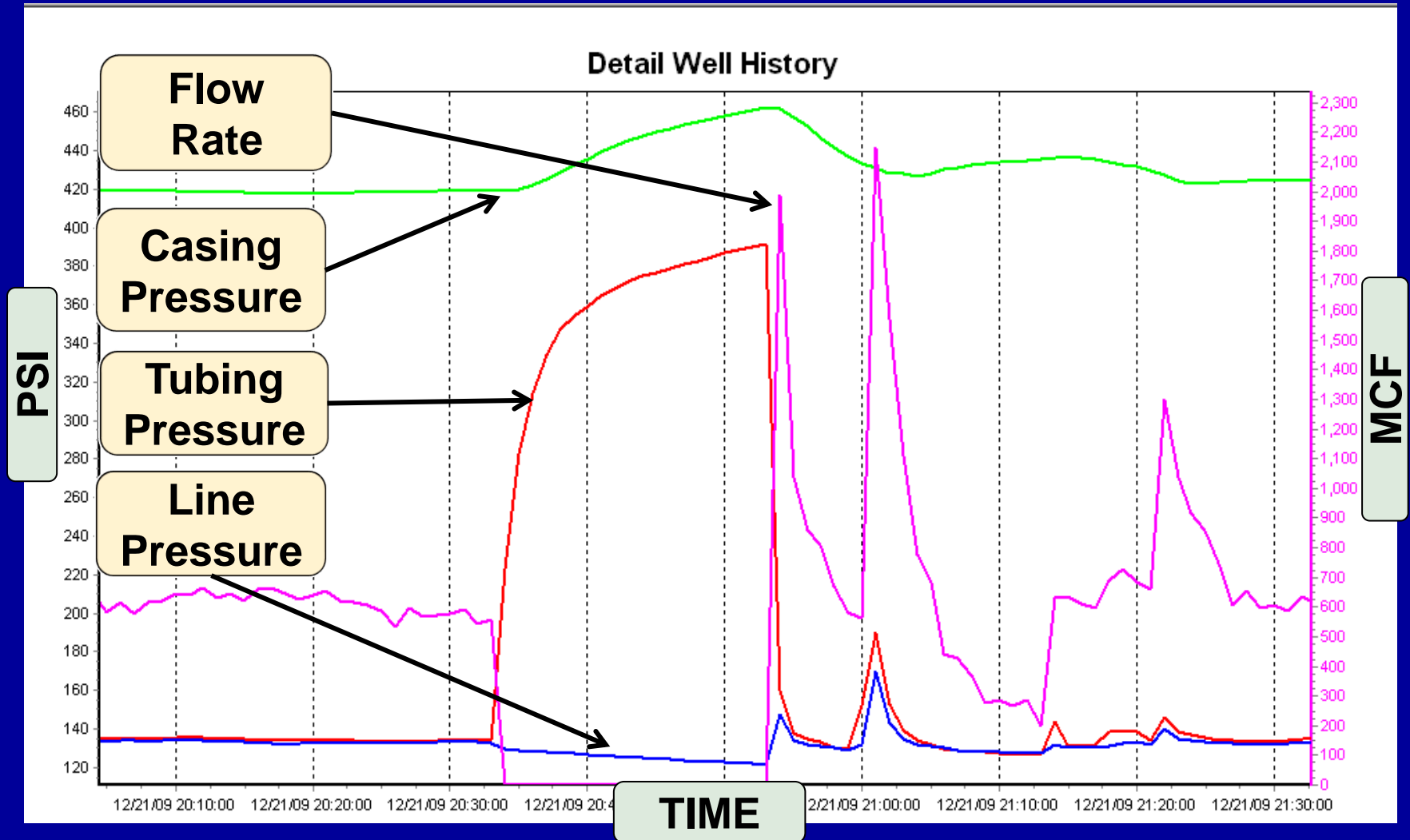
**PLUNGER VELOCITY**

**Liquid Load (CP - TP)**

**Lift Pressure (CP - LP)**

**CLOSE TIME**

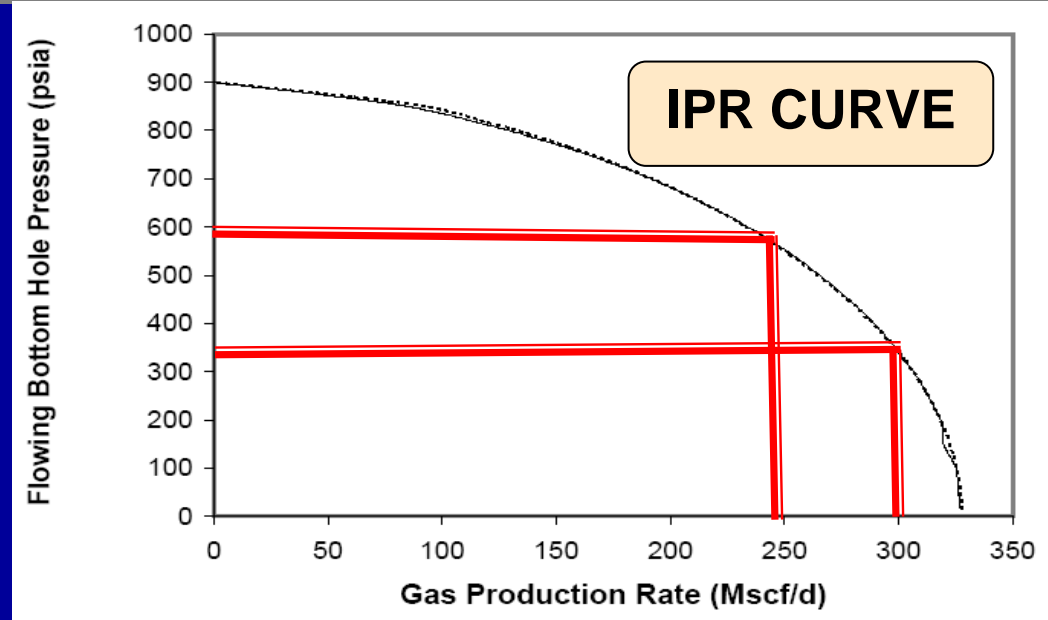
# POWER OF SURVEILLANCE Tools



# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Process

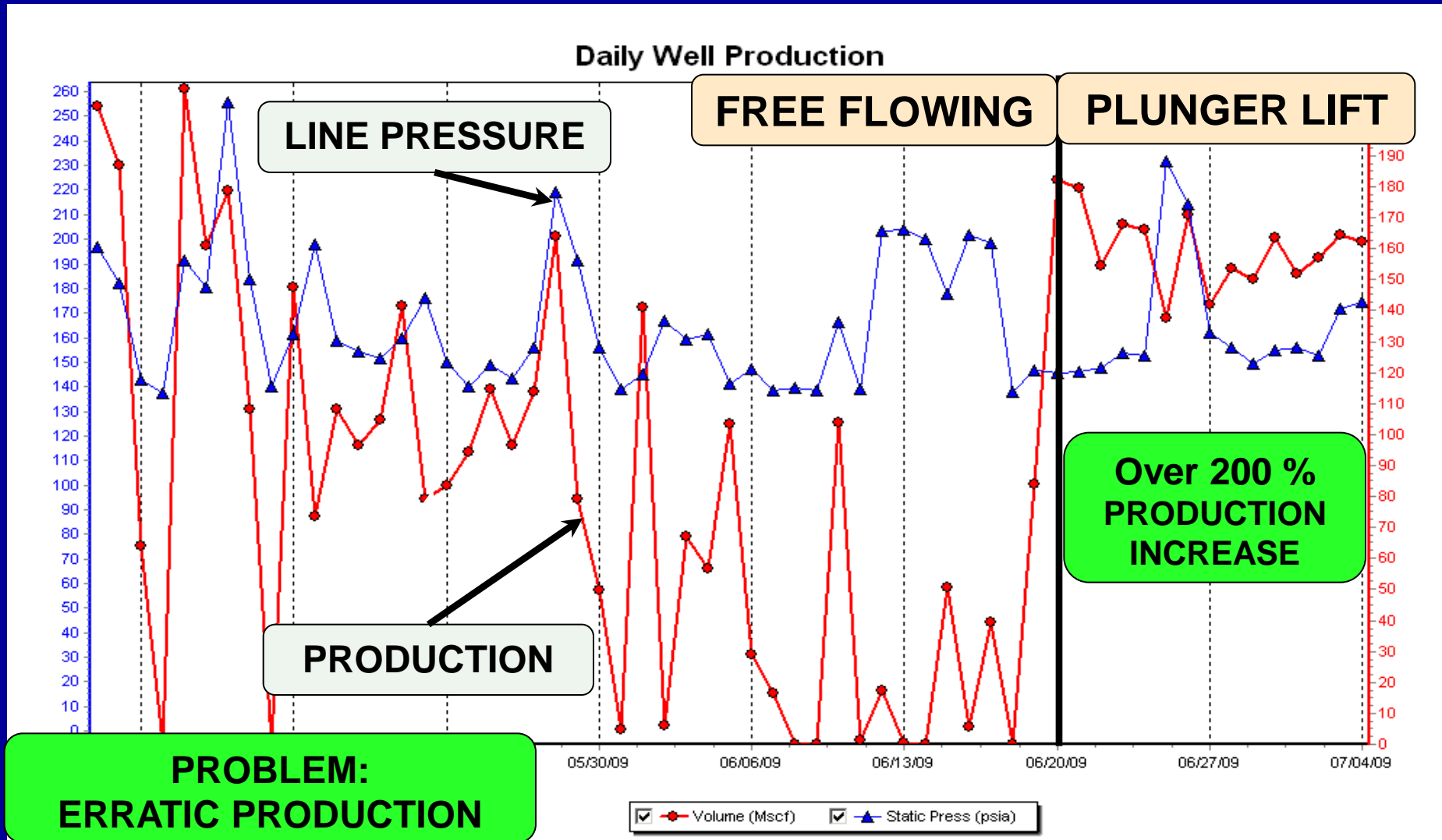
- **FOCUS ON PRODUCTION!**
- Use reliable hardware
- Minimize restrictions
  - BH Spring to pipeline
- Review on each cycle
  - Fluid in Tubing
  - Lift Pressure
  - Plunger Velocity
  - Gas Produced
- Short afterflow on initial cycles
- Troubleshoot – DATA !



- **OPERATE AT LOWEST POSSIBLE CP**
  - Many cycles each day
  - Open when fall time elapses
  - Fast falling plungers
  - Standing valves

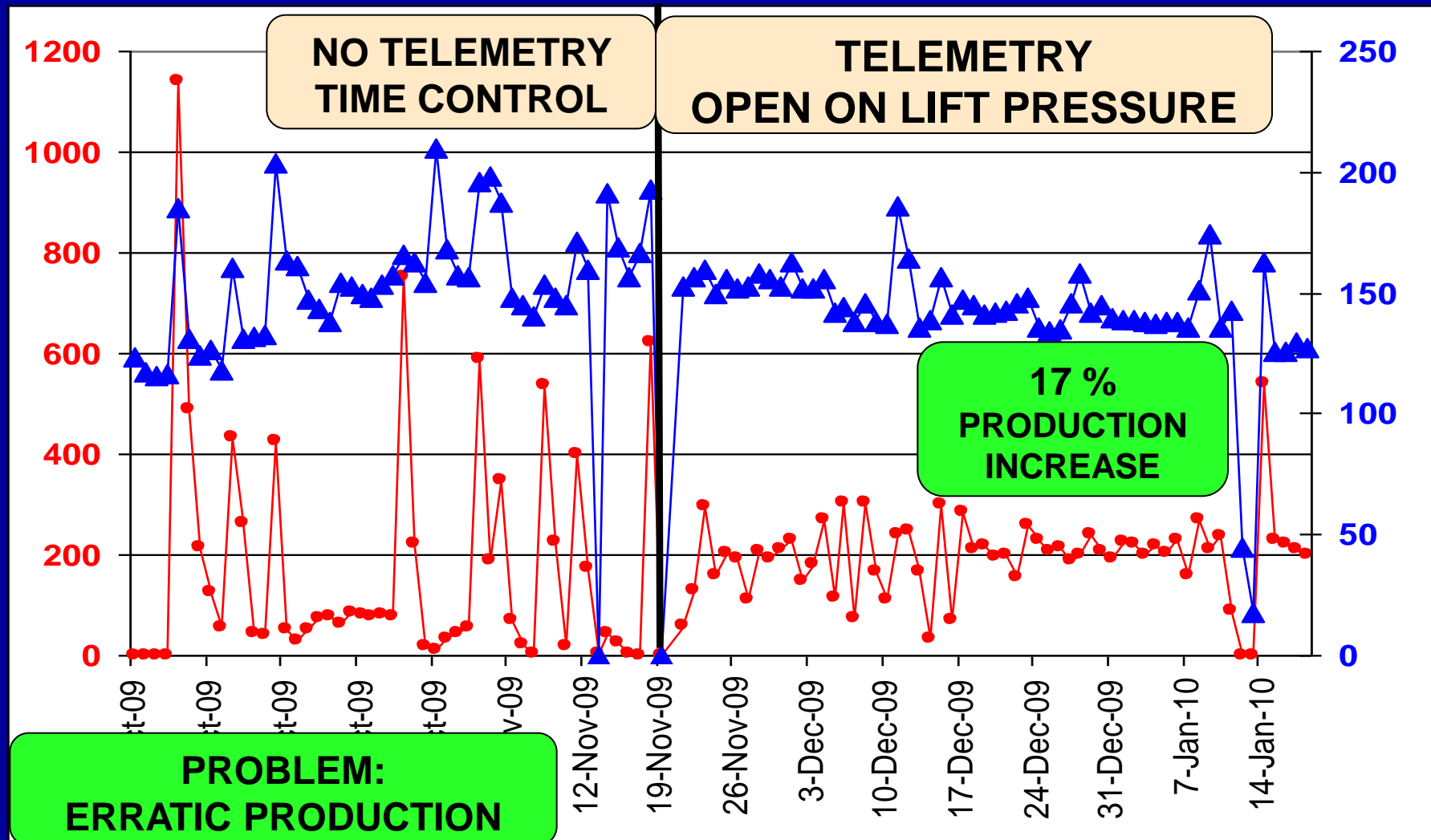
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples

### Plunger Lift Cycle Report

Station Name:  
 Report Range: 02/01/11 08:00 To 02/13/11 20:49  
 Site ID: 10099

Last Poll Time: 13-FEB-11 08:48PM  
 Temperature: 58°F  
 System Voltage: 13.2 V



Run #	AT CLOSE					Fluid in Tbg	AT OPEN					RUN DATA				PRODUCTION DATA				
	Time	Pressures (psi)					Time	Pressures (psi)				Plunger Rise		Arrivals		Open Duration	Close Duration	Gas (Mscf)	Liquid (Bbls)	
		CP	TP	SLP	CP-TP			CP	TP	SLP	Act. Lift	Req'd Lift	Time (min)	Velocity (ft/min)	Good	Miss				
3460	02/13/11 04:36AM	314	253	135	61	0.54	02/13/11 05:15AM	355	326	134	220	210	5.83	1339	1		00:06	00:38	6.0	0.0
3461	02/13/11 05:21AM	312	254	135	58	0.52	02/13/11 06:02AM	354	337	134	220	204	4.58	1704	1		00:05	00:40	5.5	0.0
3462	02/13/11 06:07AM	314	256	133	58	0.52	02/13/11 06:44AM	353	326	133	220	204	6.03	1294	1		00:07	00:36	5.8	0.0
3463	02/13/11 06:51AM	311	251	134	60	0.54	02/13/11 07:33AM	354	331	134	220	209	5.12	1526	1		00:06	00:41	5.3	0.0
3464	02/13/11 07:39AM	313	256	133	57	0.50	02/13/11 08:14AM	351	321	132	219	200	6.00	1302	1		00:07	00:35	6.4	0.0
3465	02/13/11 08:21AM	310	251	132	59	0.53	02/13/11 09:01AM	352	330	132	220	205	4.93	1583	1		00:05	00:39	5.3	0.0
3466	02/13/11 09:07AM	312	259	134	52	0.47	02/13/11 09:50AM	356	348	136	220	192	4.07	1920	1		00:05	00:43	5.9	0.0
3467	02/13/11 09:55AM	315	257	137	59	0.52	02/13/11 10:40AM	359	337	139	220	208	4.73	1650	1		00:05	00:44	5.4	0.0
3468	02/13/11 10:45AM	317	262	139	55	0.49	02/13/11 11:25AM	357	339	137	220									0.0
3469	02/13/11 11:31AM	317	251	138	66	0.59	02/13/11 12:07PM	354	323	134	220									0.0
3470	02/13/11 12:13PM	312	254	134	59	0.52	02/13/11 12:54PM	356	329	136	220									0.0
3471	02/13/11 01:01PM	314	254	136	60	0.54	02/13/11 01:42PM	357	332	137	220									0.0
3472	02/13/11 01:48PM	315	257	137	59	0.52	02/13/11 02:32PM	358	342	138	220									0.0
3473	02/13/11 02:37PM	318	262	138	56	0.50	02/13/11 03:16PM	358	337	137	220									0.0

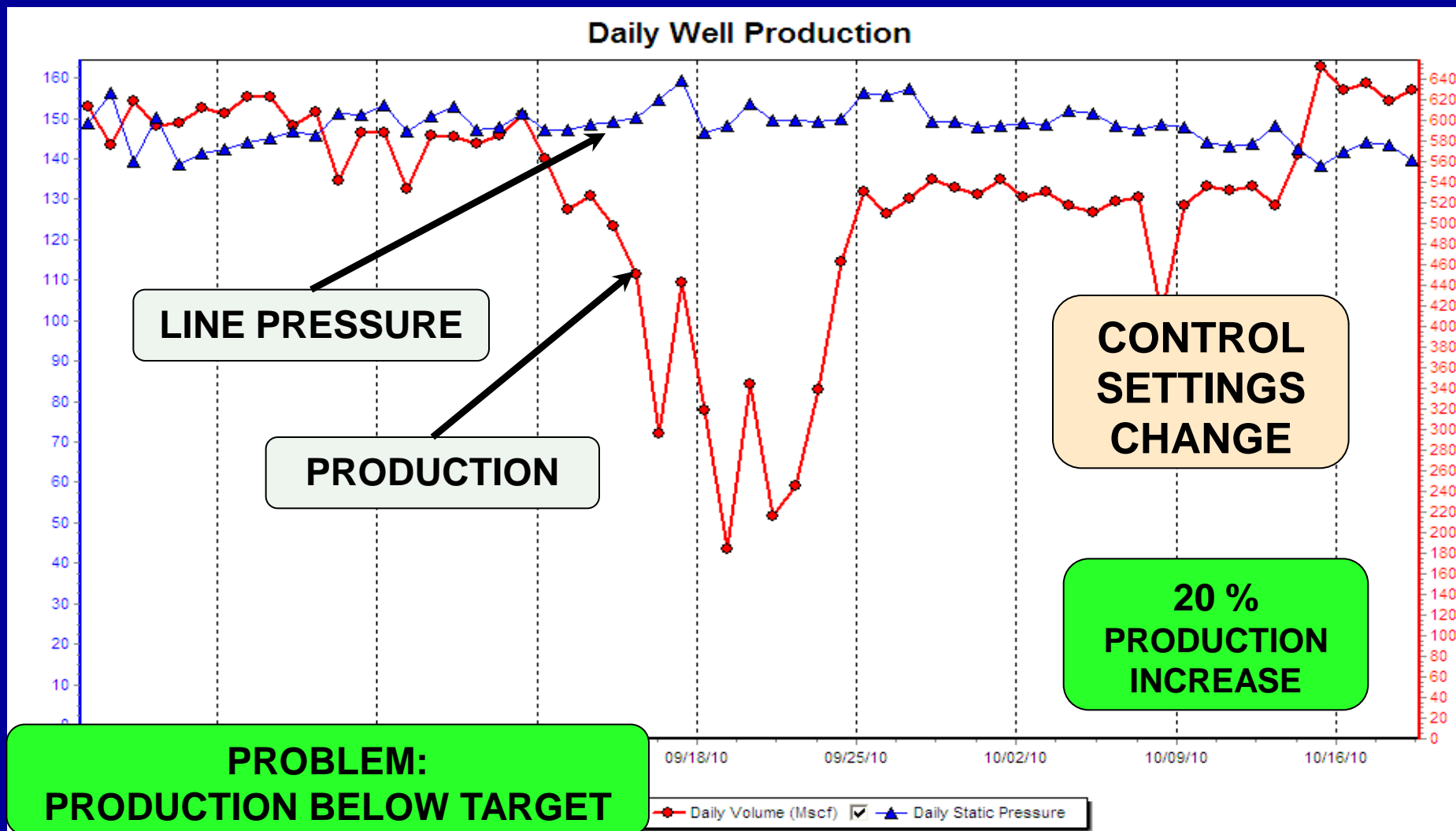
**FALL TIME (15 MIN)**  
**CLOSE TIME (MUCH LONGER)**  
**LIFT PRESSURE (220 PSI)**

**PROBLEM:**  
**PLUNGER VELOCITY IS FAST**  
 Increase Afterflow or Decrease Close Time ?

**REDUCE LIFT PRESSURE WILL SHORTEN CLOSE TIME . PLUNGER WILL MAKE MORE CYCLES PER DAY.**

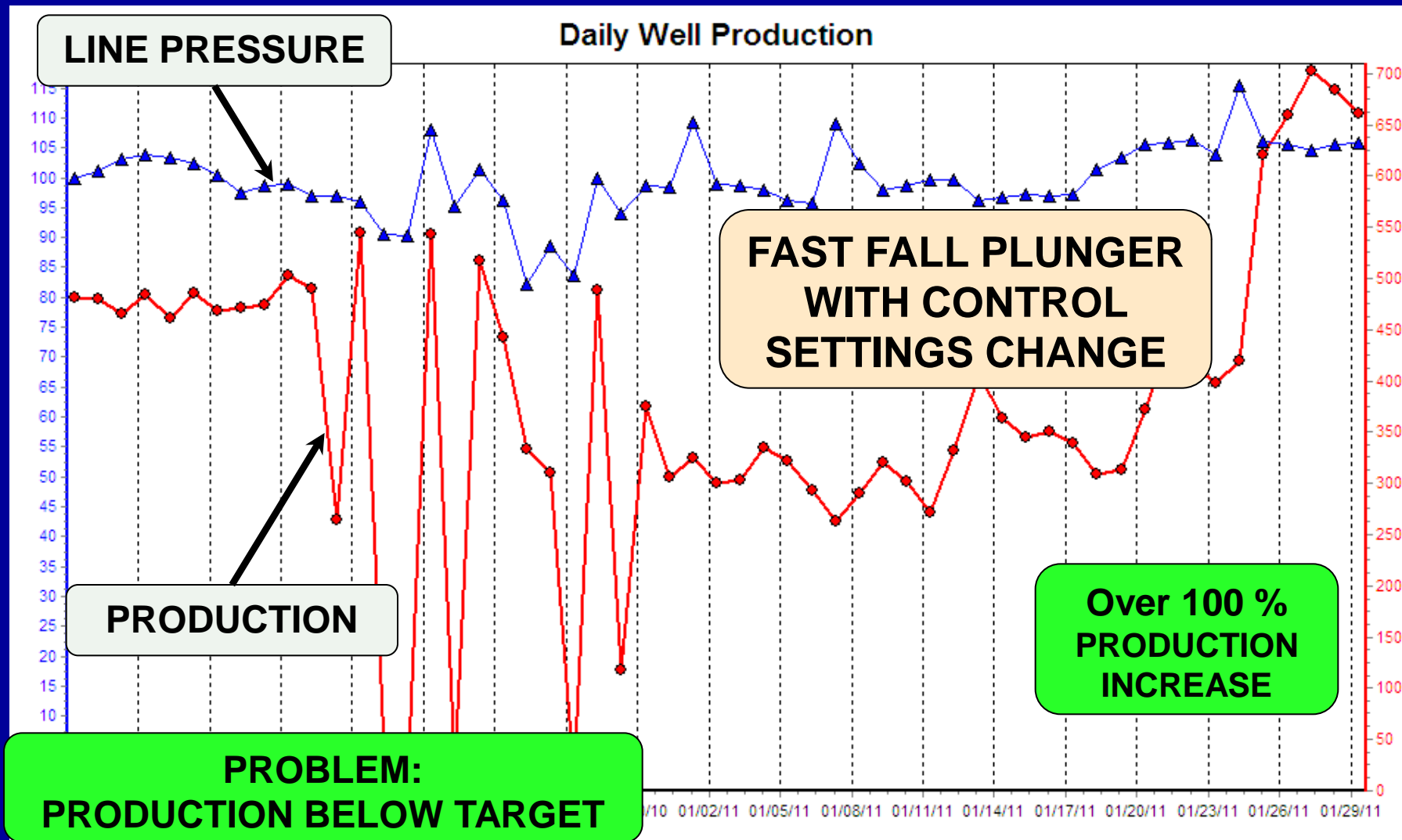
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



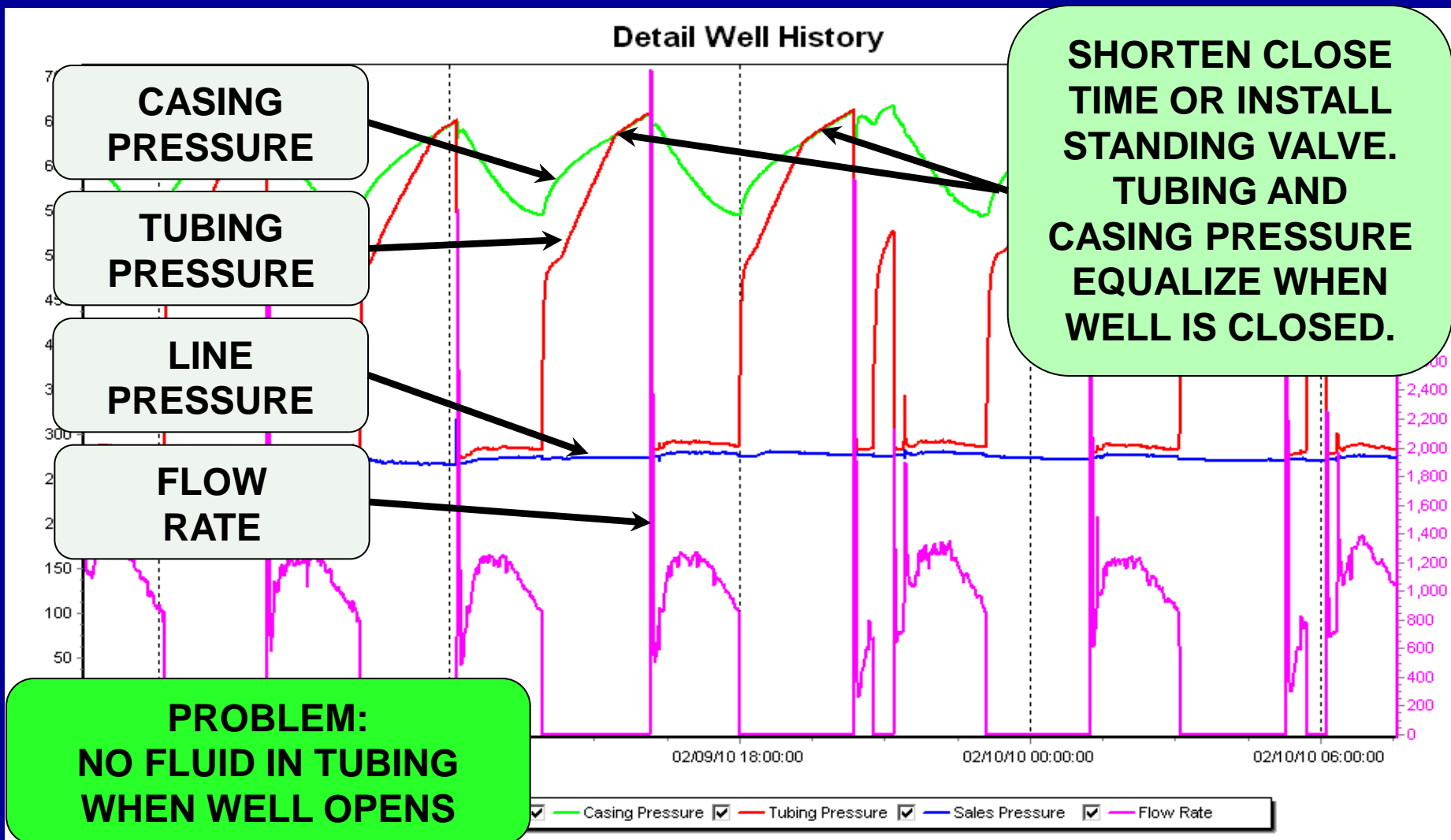
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



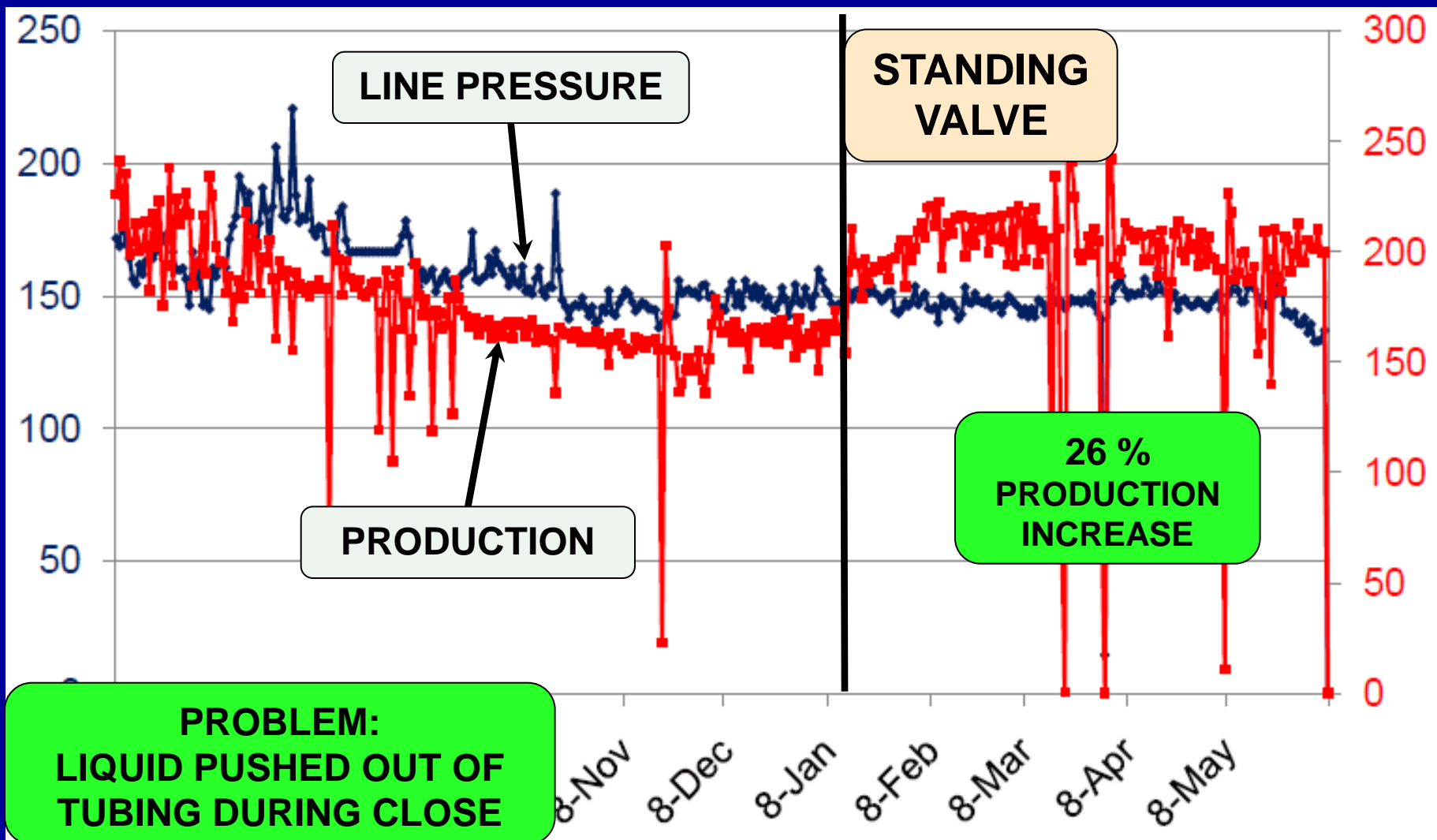
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



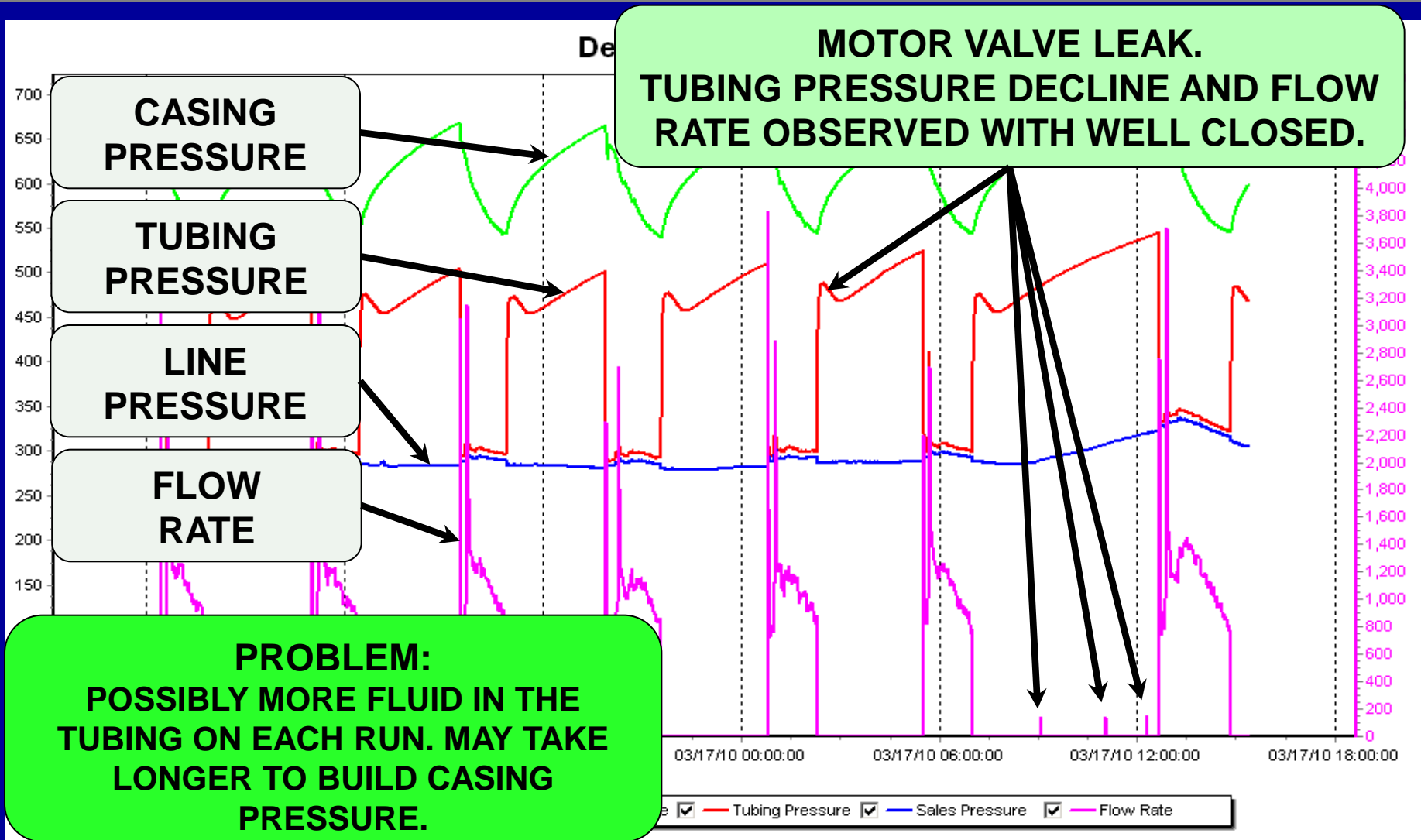
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



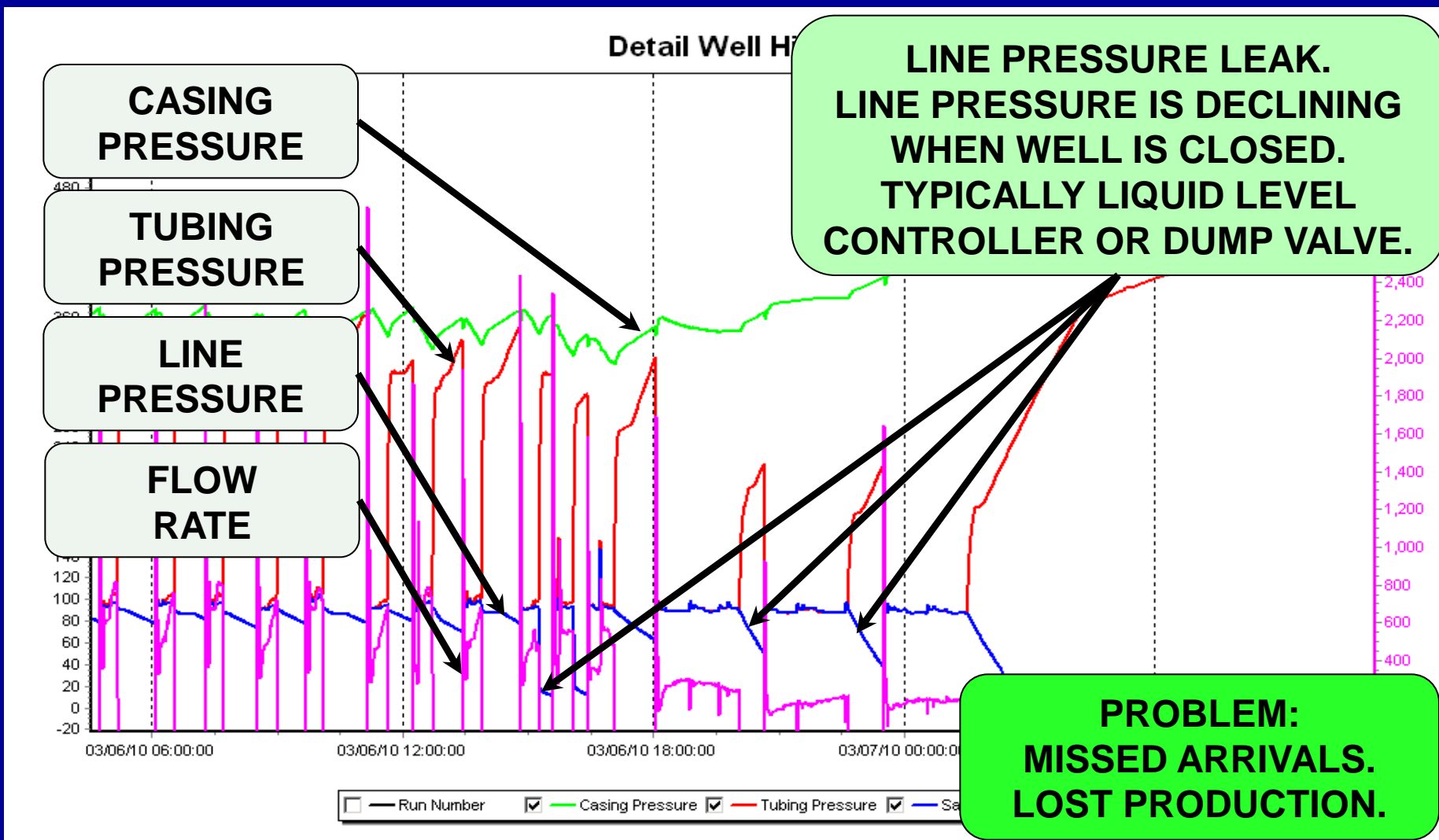
# TROUBLESHOOTING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



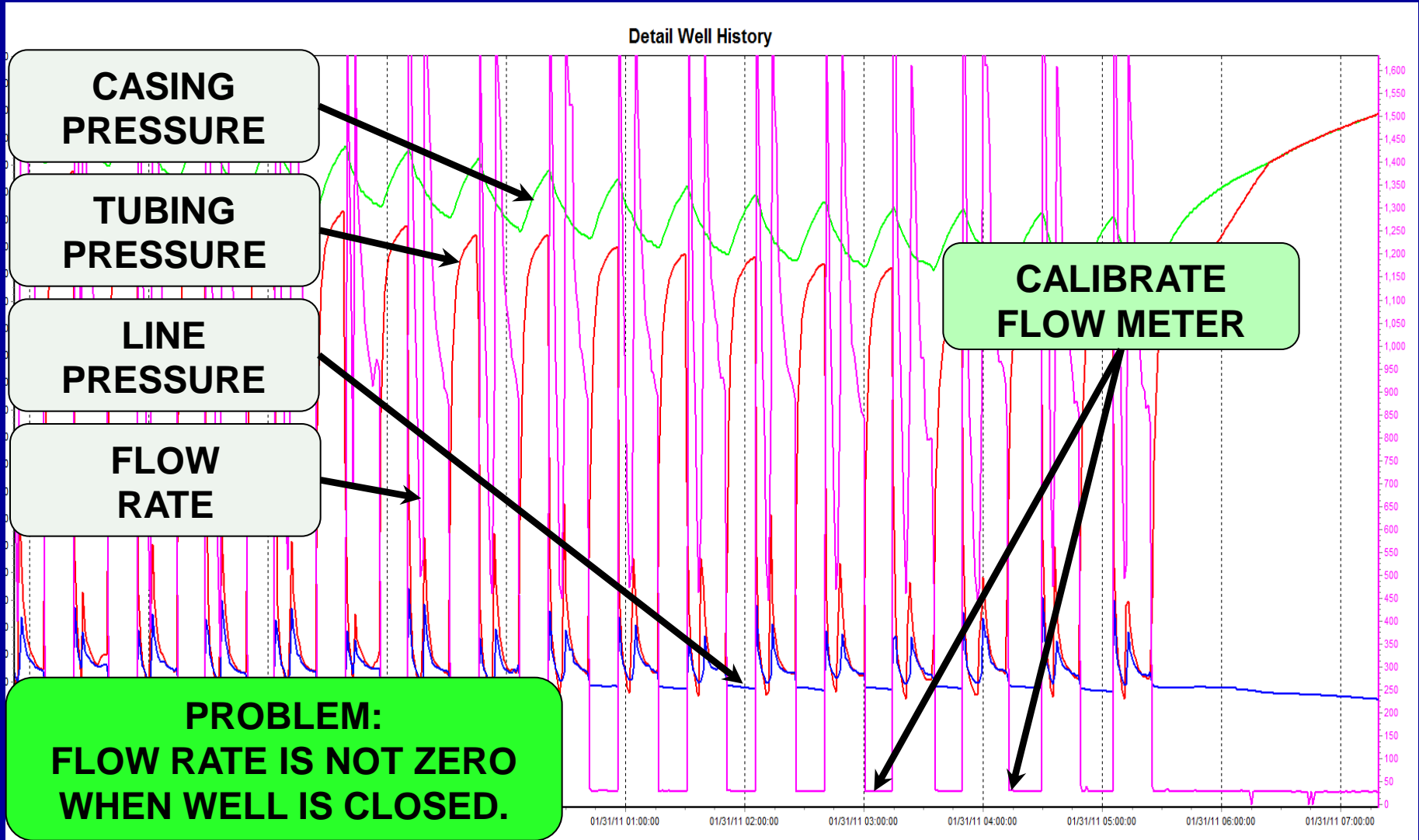
# TROUBLESHOOTING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



# TROUBLESHOOTING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



# CONCLUSION

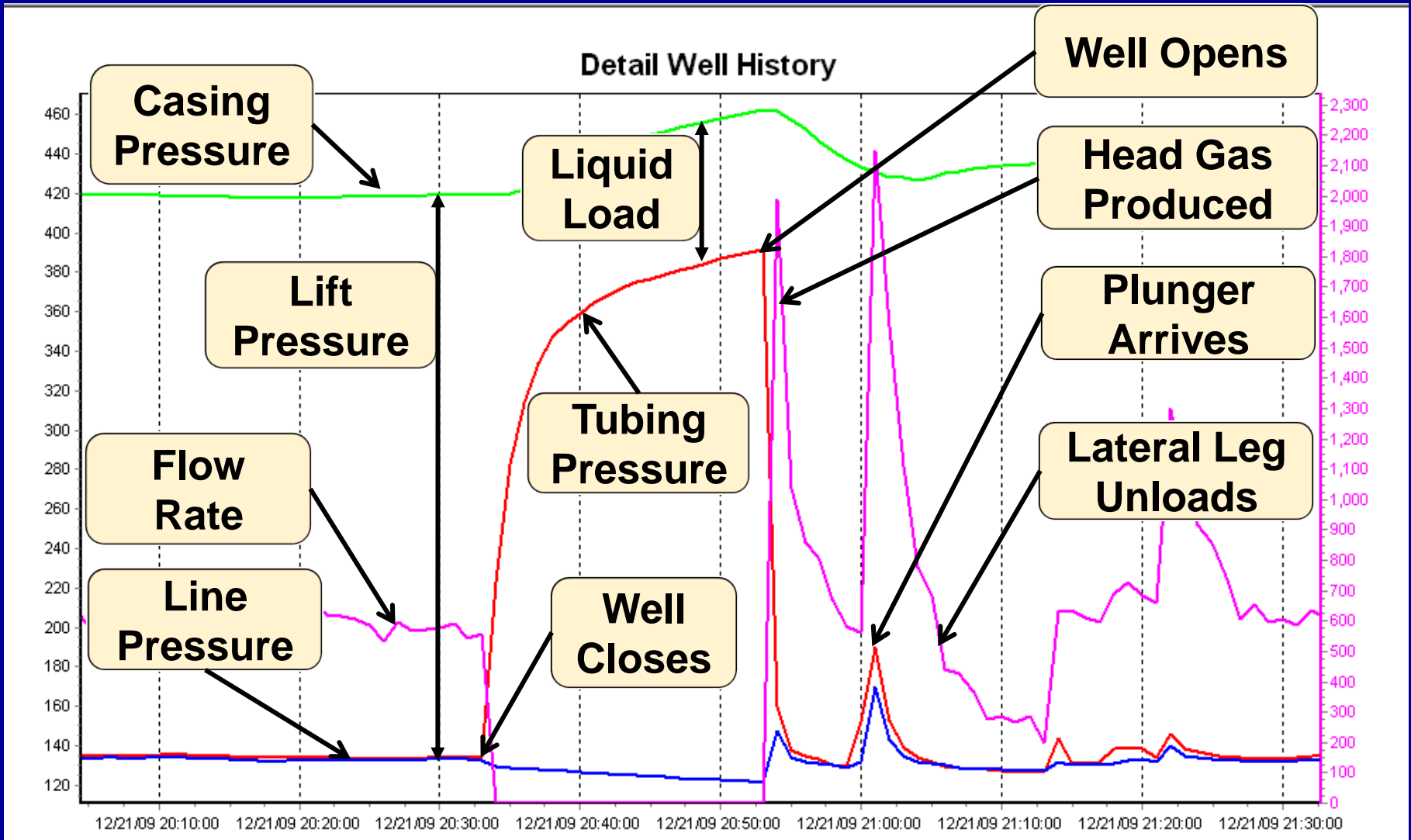
## Plunger lift improves shale production

- **Shale well production dramatically improves when**
  - Liquid is removed
  - Unplanned downtime is minimized
  - Plunger lift cycles are optimized
- **Plunger Lift**
  - Effectively removes liquid from shale wells
  - Is cost effective with a rapid payback
  - Is a long term solution
- **Plunger Lift with Surveillance and Real Time alarms**
  - Supplement field knowledge with in house “optimizers”
  - Provides real time data for root cause analysis

**KNOW NOW  
ACT NOW  
PROFIT MORE!**

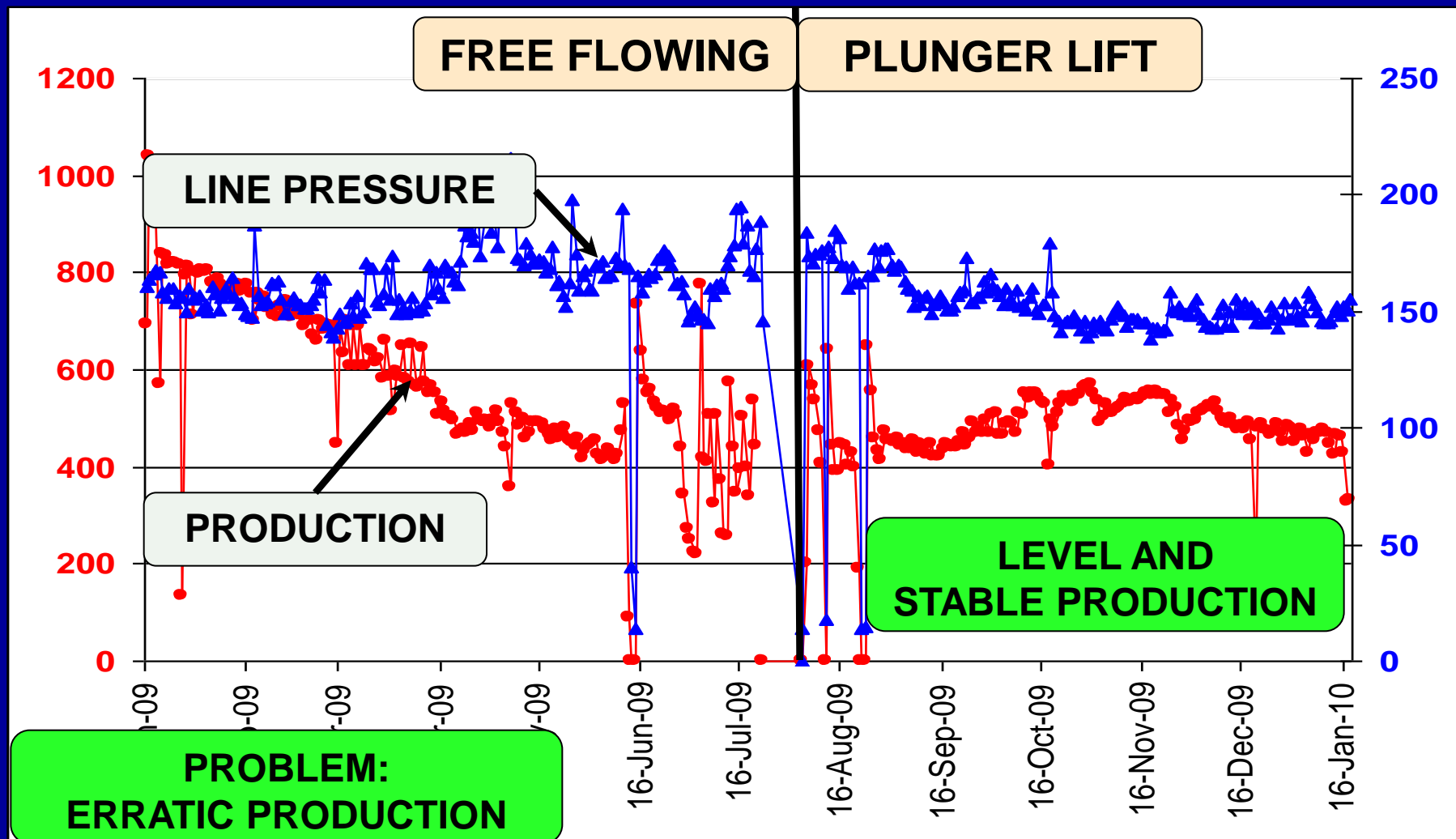
# ADDENDUM

# POWER OF SURVEILLANCE Tools



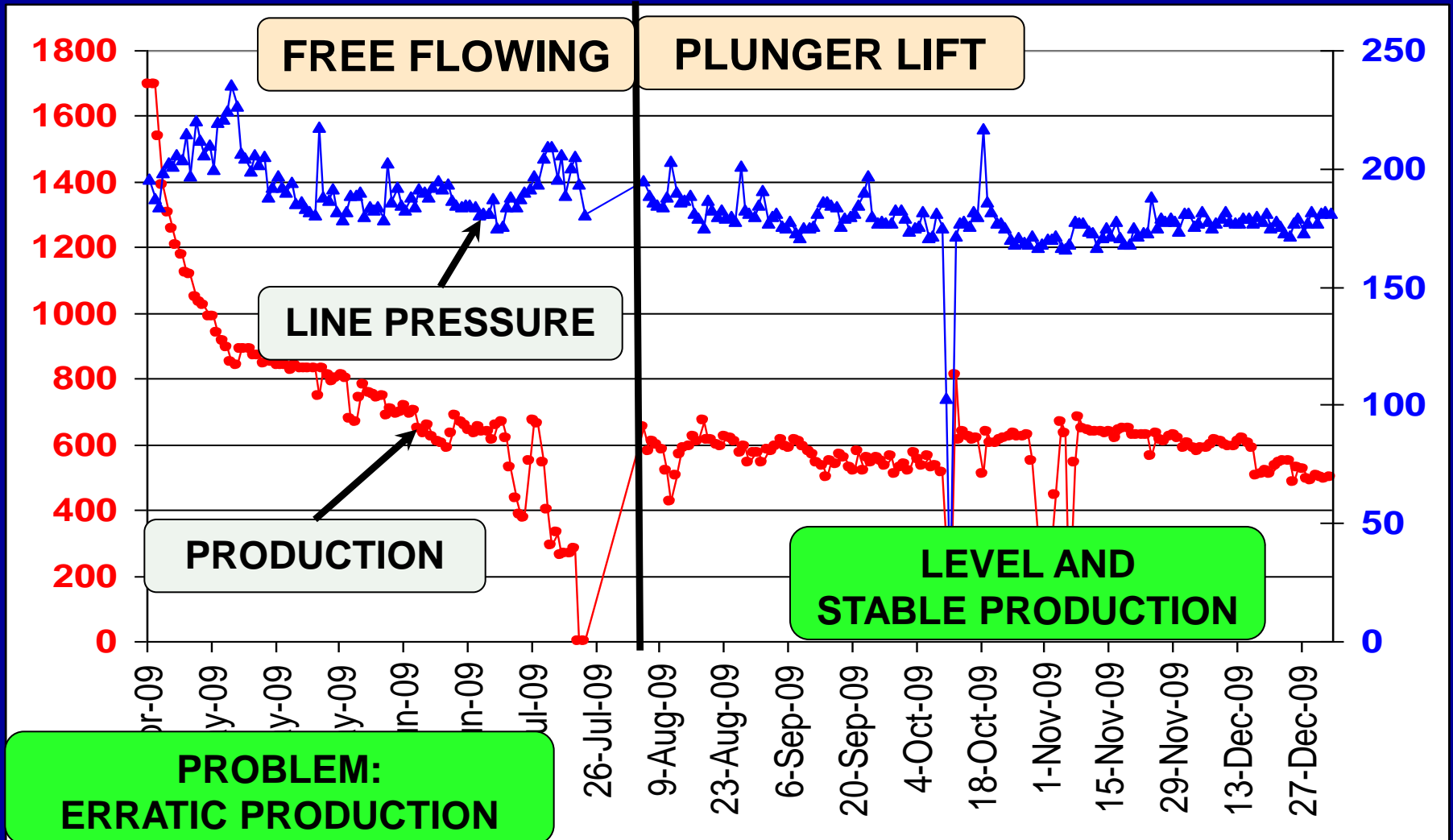
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



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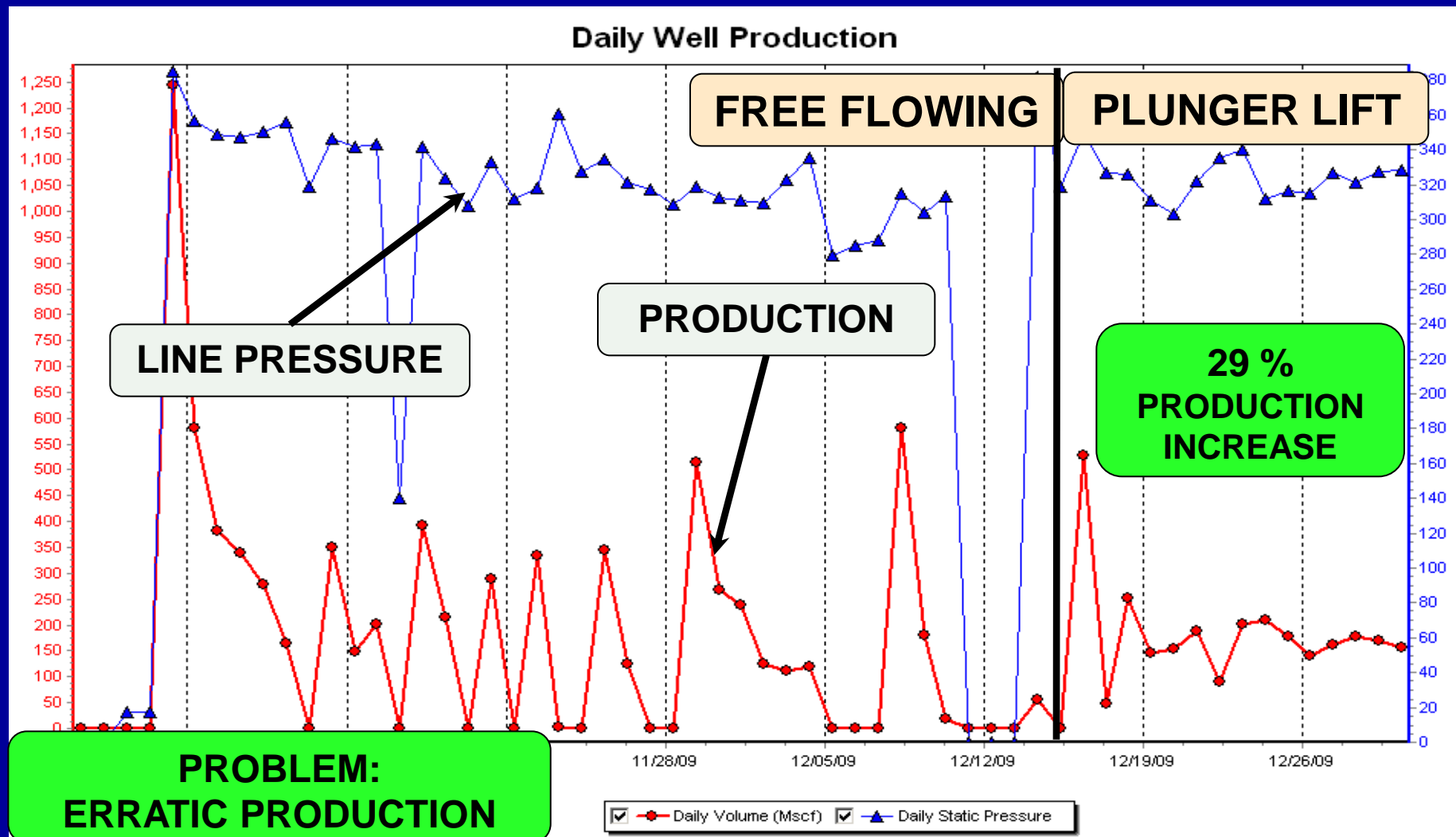


**PROBLEM:  
ERRATIC PRODUCTION**

**LEVEL AND  
STABLE PRODUCTION**

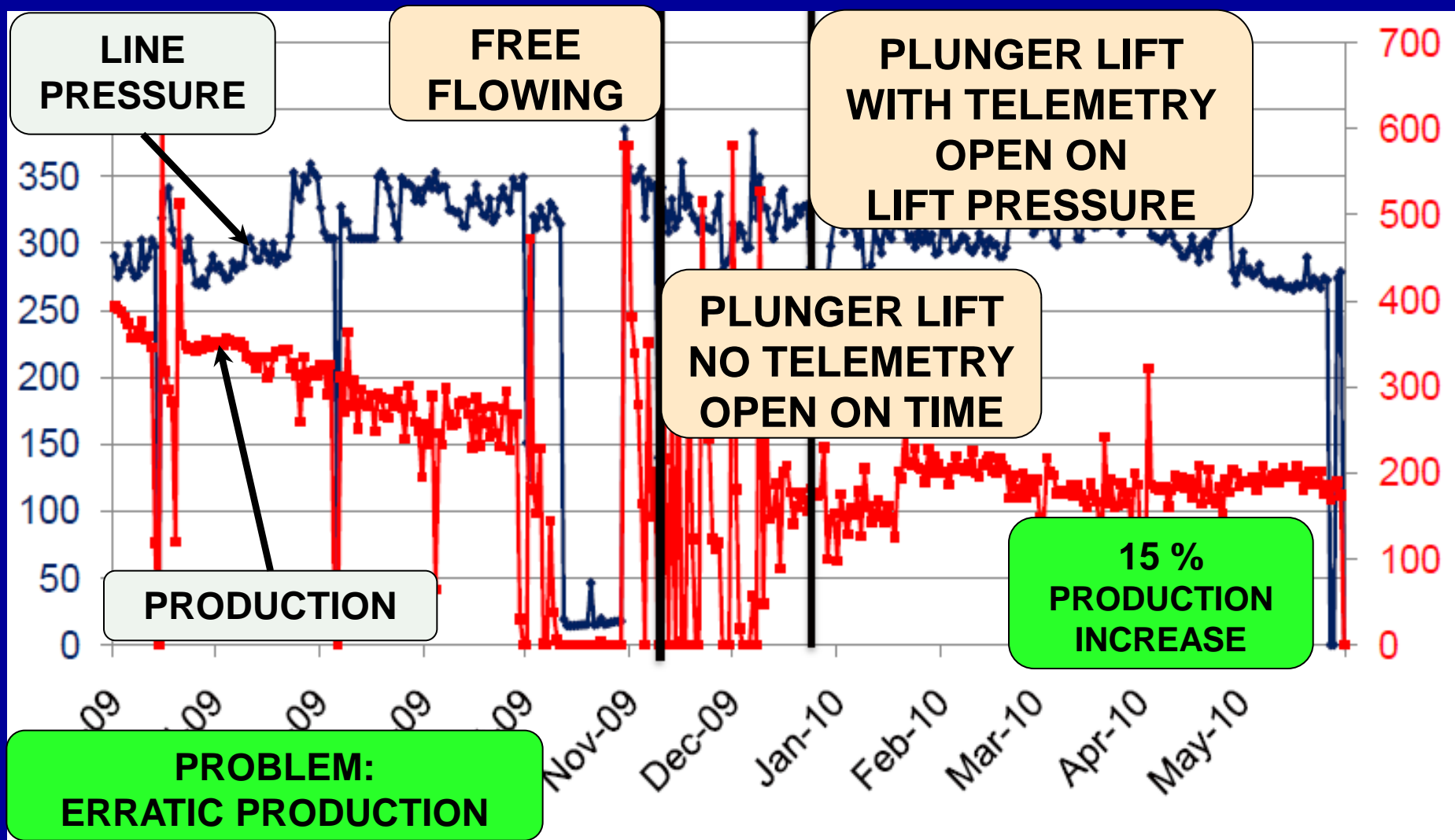
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



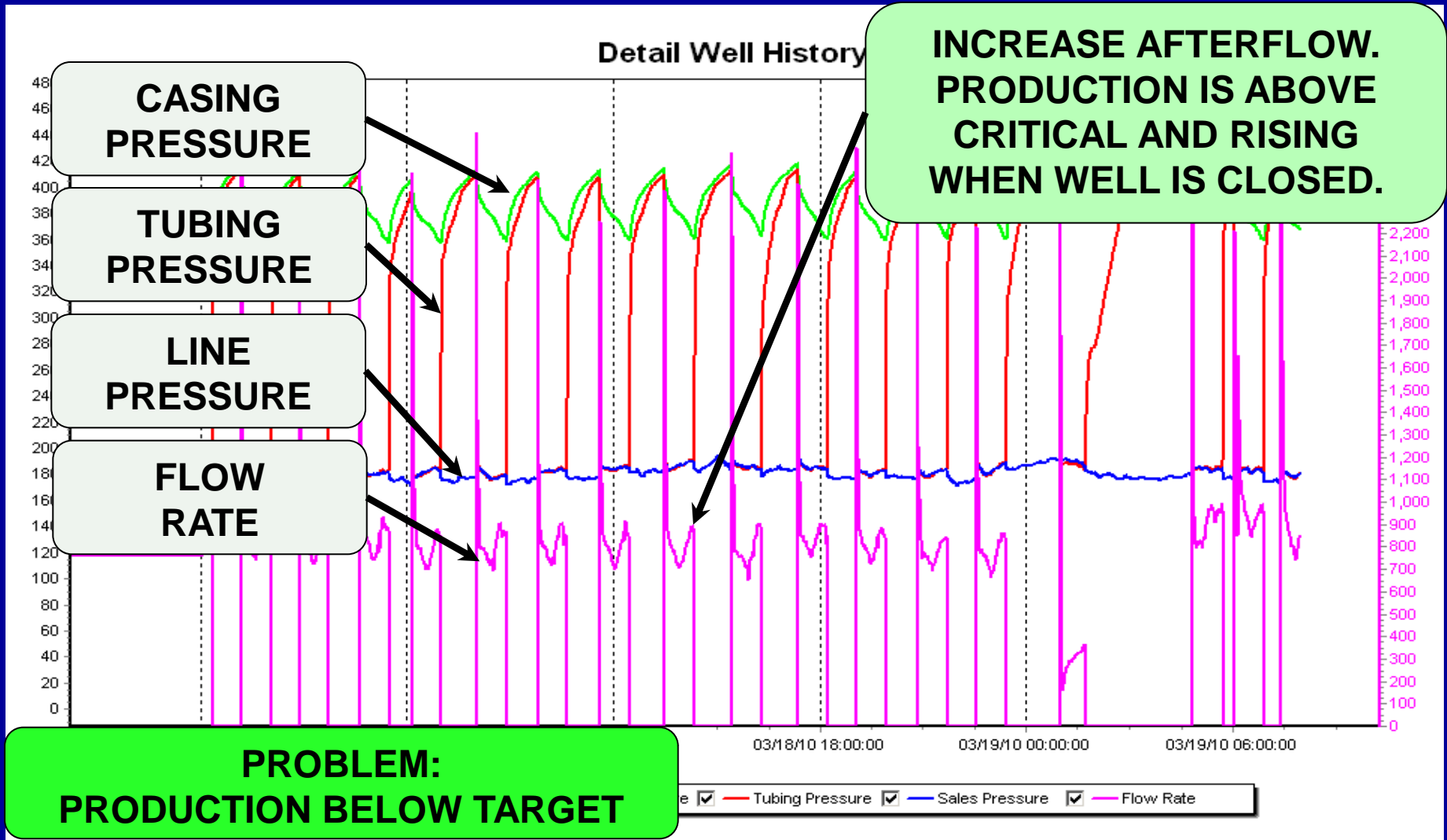
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



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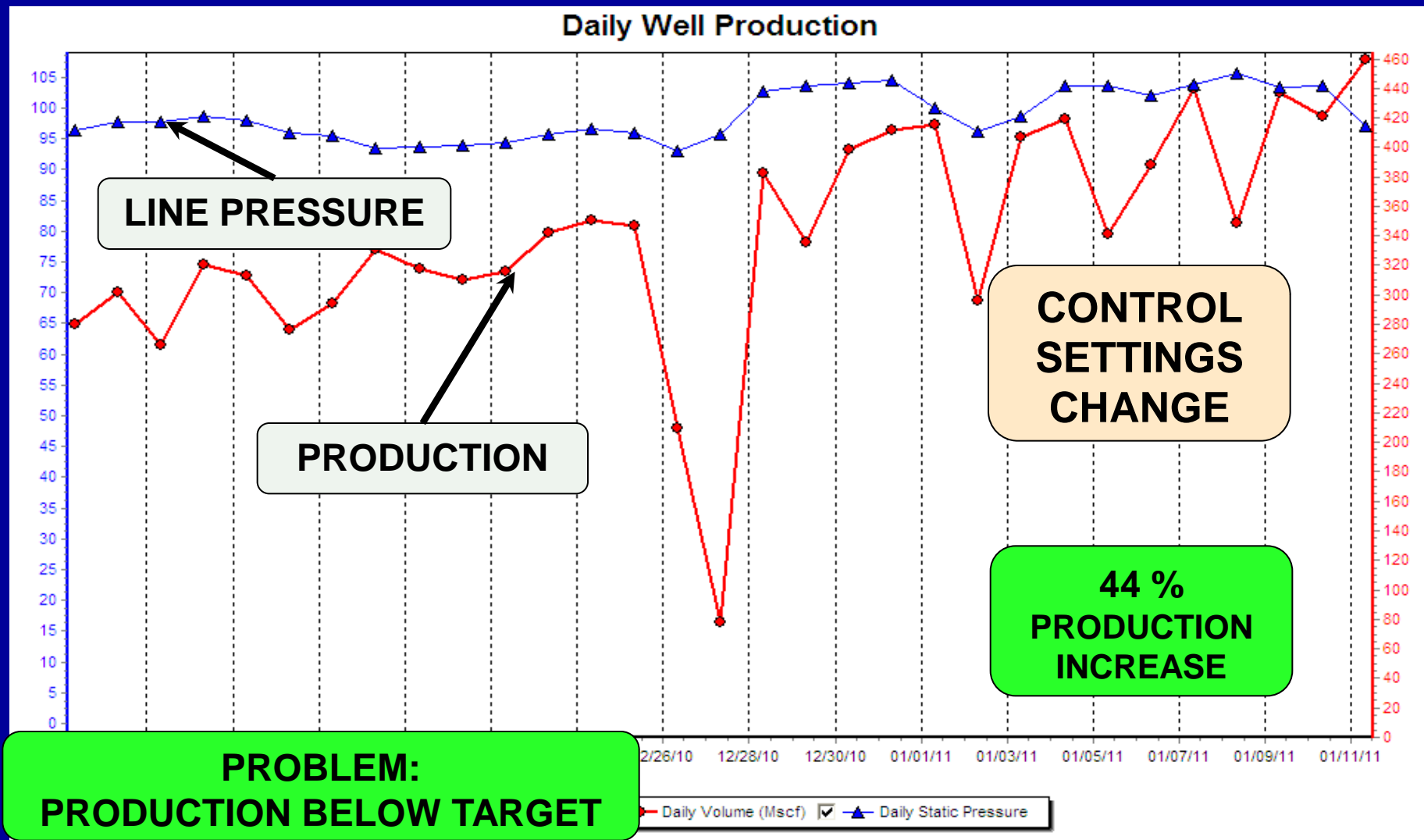
Run #	Time	AT CLOSE					Fluid in Tbg	AT OPEN					RUN DATA					PRODUCTION DATA		
		CP	TP	SLP	CP-TP	Pressures (psi)		Time	CP	TP	SLP	Act. Lift	Req'd Lift	Time (min)	Velocity (ft/min)	Plunger Rise		Arrivals	Open Duration	Close Duration
95	01/30/11 09:01PM	318	281	170	37	0.33	01/30/11 09:16PM	330	289	167	163	172	13.85	546	1		00:33	00:15	15.5	0.0
96	01/30/11 09:50PM	317	275	163	42	0.38	01/30/11 10:05PM	329	294	161	168	181	8.38	903	1		00:28	00:15	13.8	0.0
97	01/30/11 10:34PM	317	275	162	41	0.37	01/30/11 10:49PM	326	292	162	165	179	7.47	1014	1		00:27	00:15	13.6	0.0
98	01/30/11 11:16PM	313	281	161	32	0.29	01/30/11 11:31PM	324	301	162	162	159	7.57	1000	1		00:27	00:15	13.8	0.0
99	01/30/11 11:59PM	313	273	161	40	0.36	01/31/11 12:14AM	323	290	161	163	175	7.43	1018	1		00:27	00:15	13.2	0.0
100	01/31/11 12:42AM	312	276	160	36	0.32	01/31/11 12:57AM	322	294	160	162	166	6.85	1105	1		00:26	00:15	12.9	0.0
101	01/31/11 01:24AM	311	275	159	36	0.32	01/31/11 01:39AM	321	292	159	162	165	6.95	1089	1		00:26	00:15	13.1	0.0
102	01/31/11 02:06AM	311	272	160	38	0.34	01/31/11 02:21AM	320	289	161	159	172	7.63	991	1		00:27	00:15	13.3	0.0
103	01/31/11 02:49AM	309	274	160	34	0.31	01/31/11 03:04AM	319	294	160	158	163	7.42	1020	1		00:27	00:15	13.2	0.0
104	01/31/11 03:31AM	308	273	161	35	0.32	01/31/11 03:46AM	318	292	161	158	165	7.15	1058	1		00:27	00:15	12.8	0.0
105	01/31/11 04:13AM	308	272	164	36	0.32	01/31/11 04:29AM	318	293	162	156	167	7.65	989	1		00:27	00:15	13.2	0.0
106	01/31/11 04:56AM	308	272	162	36	0.32	01/31/11 05:11AM	318	294	162	157	166	7.18	1054	1		00:27	00:15	13.2	0.0
107	01/31/11 05:39AM	307	271	161	36	0.32	01/31/11 05:54AM	318	292	161	157	167	7.08	1068	1		00:27	00:15	12.9	0.0
108	01/31/11 06:21AM	306	269	162	38	0.34	01/31/11 06:36AM	316	287	162	155	169			1		00:27	00:15	12.9	0.0
109	01/31/11 07:05AM	307	267	161	40	0.36	01/31/11 07:20AM	317	288	161	155	169			1		00:27	00:15	12.9	0.0
110	01/31/11 07:50AM	310	257	161	54	0.48	01/31/11 08:05AM	320	273	161	161	169			1		00:27	00:15	12.9	0.0
111	01/31/11 08:35AM	310	264	163	45	0.40	01/31/11 08:50AM	319	280	161	151	169			1		00:27	00:15	12.9	0.0

**PLUNGER FALL TIME IS 15 MIN.  
CLOSE TIME SAME AS FALL TIME.  
PLUNGER VELOCITY IS FAST.  
INCREASE AFTERFLOW.  
MONITOR PRODUCTION.**

**PROBLEM:  
PRODUCTION BELOW TARGET**

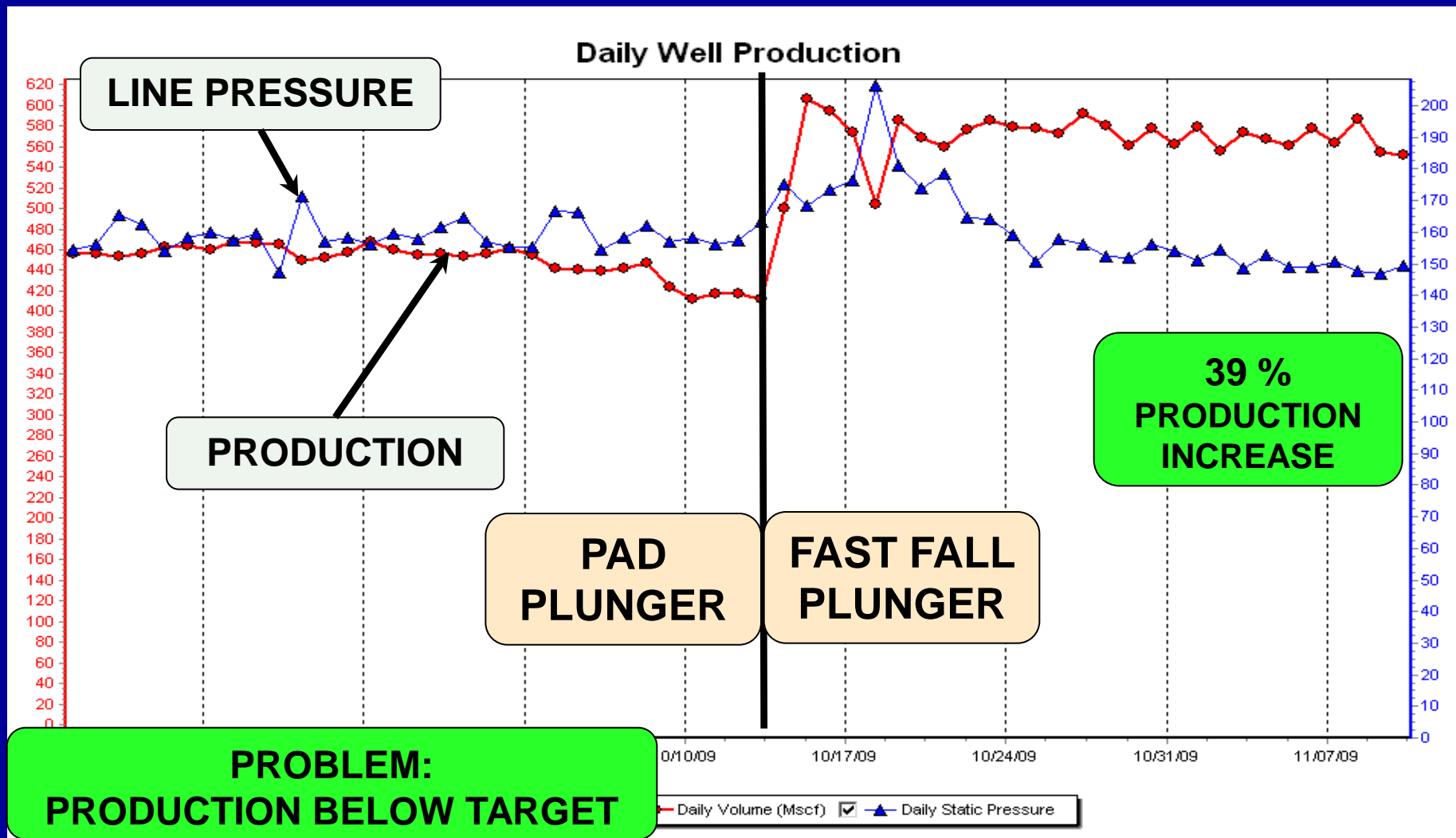
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



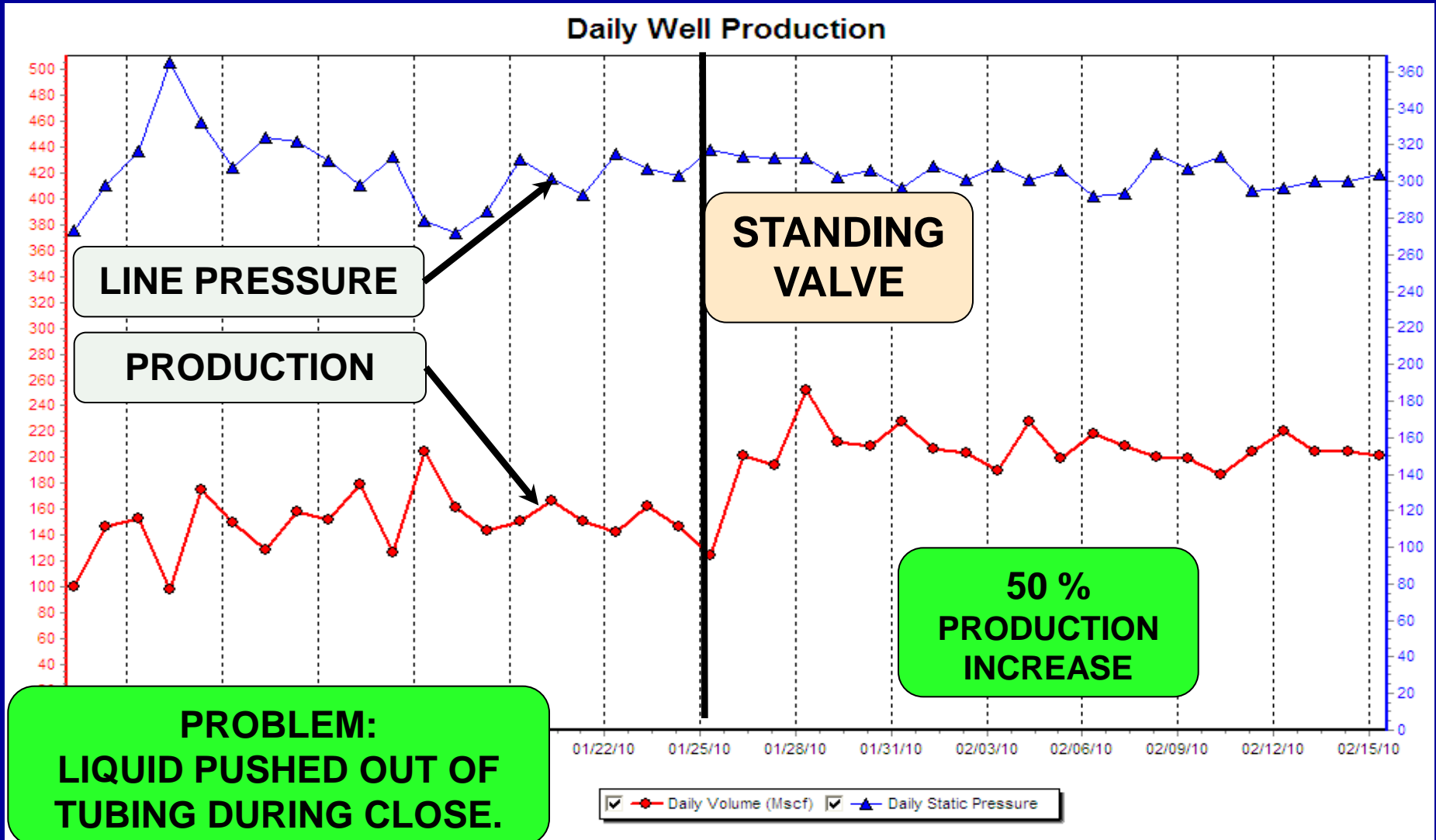
# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



# OPTIMIZING SHALE WELLS

## Examples



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