



Chemically Overtreated Crude Slops Respond to Special Demulsifier

Problem

Several crude oil reclaimers in Texas and on the West Coast have encountered difficulties in treating certain batches of crude oil emulsions. These turned out to be interface or "rag" layers from unsuccessful attempts at recovery with ineffective demulsifiers. After small amounts of clean oil were skimmed off, these "tight" emulsions, which were "overtreated" and normally unbreakable, became available for treatment.

Solution

These overtreated emulsions would normally respond to high levels (2000-5000) of conventional slop demulsifiers. However, RECOVEROL* ECO 100Y at 500-1500 ppm added at 160-180°F, gave rapid water drop and oil recovery.

Results

Case I

185 barrels of salt-water disposal skimmings had 40% BS&W. 500 ppm (1/2 gallon per 1000 gallon) of ECO 100Y was added at 180°F and rolled with compressed air for 30 minutes. After settling for 2 days oil recovery was 82%. Treated oil was analyzed at less than 1% BS&W.

Case II

210 barrels of accumulated interface had 53% BS&W. 1250 ppm of ECO 100Y was added at 160°F and mixed by injecting the chemical in the transfer line from the holding tank to the settling tank. After 2 days, oil recovery was 93%.

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