A New View of Produced Water: Resource, Not Waste

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What's the Produced Water "Problem"?

- Large volumes of water produced during unconventional oil and gas exploration and production
- Typically saline and may contain metals
- Regulated as a "waste"



What's a Produced Water Solution?

- Produced Water Management Plans
- Beneficial Reuse
- Demonstrate
 Success through
 Case Studies



Number of Respondents Expressing Concern

Areas of Concern

Definition: Waste /wāst/ (n)

United States

ALL produced water considered a waste

Prohibition on surface discharge (unless benefits to habitat or agriculture can be demonstrated)

Australia

Most states define produced water as a waste

Queensland redefinition: Beneficial if "no harm" can be demonstrated

From Wastewater to Drinking Water

Beneficial re-use of treated wastewater gaining acceptance



Treated wastewater bottled and sold



World's largest wastewater purification plant

How to Develop a Produced Water Management Plan



FOUR STEPS

- 1. Understand the source
- 2. Understand the local water needs
- 3. Evaluate WaterQualityCompatibilities
- 4. Determine Treatment Options

Step 1: Understand the Source

- Salinity
 Naturally Occurring Metals
- Volume
- Change over time

Produced Waters Not Created Equal

Step 2:Understand the Local Water Needs

Local water users

Water Quality and Quantity needs

Local Regulations

Highly Site-Specific

Step 3: Evaluate Compatibilities



Step 4: Determine Treatment Options



Different Levels of Treatment Variety of Treatment Options

A New Source of Water

- Livestock
 Watering
- Industrial Washdown
 Reuse on Field
- Crop Irrigation
 Golf Course Watering
 Wildlife and Habitat Support
- Recycling for Hydraulic Fracturing
 Cooling Tower water

Can Reduce Demand on Potable Water Supply and Improve the Community Relations

California Oil and Gas Example

Reinjected for aquifer recharge in wine country



Discharge water into creek to support critical habitat for federally endangered species

Australia Example

Menu of Beneficial Reuses

No Treatment:

- Stock watering
- Industrial wash-down
- Dilution/
- discharge

Treated: – Irrigation – Stream discharge Limited opportunity for injection

 Mechanical Vapor Recompression selected for treatment

Summary

 A new view of produced water: New resource, not a waste

Local solutions needed

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 Regulatory hurdles easing as the beneficial uses are demonstrated

Thank You Questions?

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