

Case study: Middle East

Premier packers retrieved fifteen years after deployment, avoided costly intervention operations

Fifteen years ago, a customer in the Middle East installed a series of Baker Hughes **Premier™ packers** and **polished bore receptacle (PBR)** in a wellbore with high dogleg severity. Hydraulically set and with a slip-element-slip arrangement, these large-bore removable production packers combine the performance of a permanent packer with the conveniences of a retrievable packer. The shift-to-release Premier packers are designed to be retrieved via a production string years after deployment, specifically without milling. If any component fails, the customer would face costly options: a fishing attempt, milling operations, sidetracking around the stuck packers, or, worse of all, well abandonment.

Baker Hughes assured the customer the Premier packers could be retrieved as designed. Working in close collaboration with the customer's engineers to plan and prepare for the operation, Baker Hughes field personnel deployed a **Model A™ retrieving tool**. The Model A tool is designed to work seamlessly with the Premier packers, releasing the packer with a straight pull. If the packer does not release, the Model A tool has an emergency release built in. Applied pressure relieves tailpipe compression to aid in retrieval.

The Baker Hughes team assembled the Model A retrieving tool on a bottomhole assembly (BHA) and ran the BHA into the well. Over the course of six runs, all Premier packers and PBRs were retrieved in sequential order, from 5,797 to 9,041 ft (1766 to 2755 m). The Model A tool's ease of retrieval demonstrated the reliability of the Premier packers releasing mechanism, even on packers fifteen years in a wellbore.

By trusting the Premier production packer to operate within parameters fifteen years after deployment and the streamlined retrieval process via the Model A tool, the customer's well was saved. All the completion strings were recovered as per the initial plan. Costly and complex sidetrack, fishing, or milling operations were avoided, saving the customer substantial rig time. Depending on the intervention method, the total cost savings ranged from \$45,000 to \$1.5 million USD. The Baker Hughes personnel conducted the operation flawlessly, incurring no nonproduction time (NPT) and experiencing zero health, safety and environmental (HSE) issues.

Challenges

- Recover Premier packers after fifteen years
- Eliminate subsequent well interventions

Results

- Retrieved all Premier packers and PBRs
- Prevented costly well intervention activities such as milling and sidetracking
- Saved well and avoided abandonment
- Avoided expensive wellbore clean out
- Saved approximately \$3.5 million USD
- Experienced no HSE issues or NPT