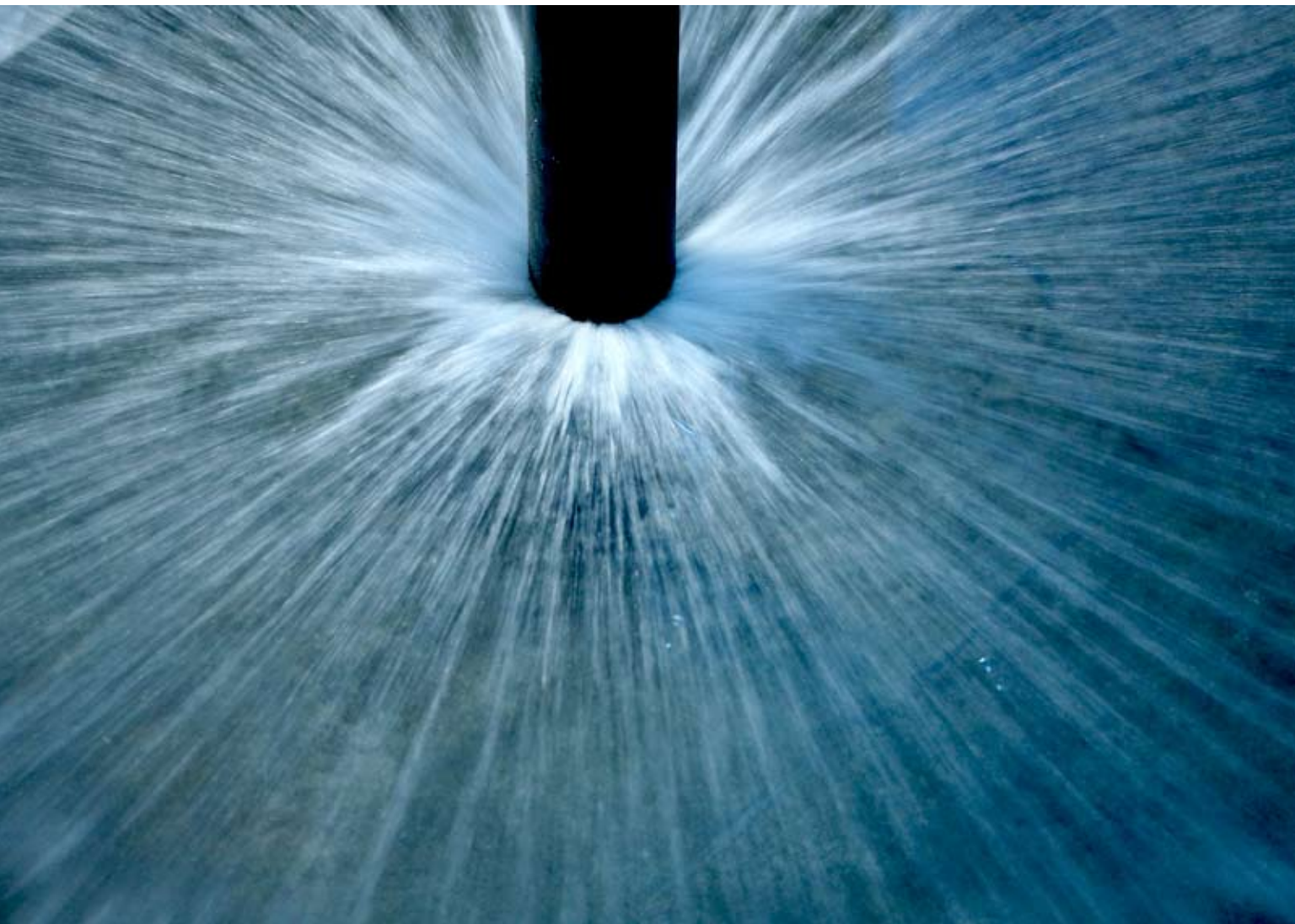


MAKING THE MOST OF RESOURCES

BY NWB STAFF



The region's unconventional plays have taken on a larger than life role and it's easy to forget that conventional oil is still a going concern.

Increasing environmental consciousness – as well as a desire to increase the bottom-line – has spurred substantial interest in how to get more oil, get it for longer periods of time and get it all from the same location.

Let's face it, the notion that fossil fuels in general are in limited supply

isn't news anymore and as long as they are still needed, better technologies will emerge that help make the most of what does exist.

One such process has been leveraged by Wavefront who markets their particular process as Powerwave and Primawave.

"On a pattern flood, we tell our clients that they should expect a 25 per cent or greater increase in production," said president and CEO Brett David-

son. He added: "We (also) tell our clients right now to expect anywhere between a two and 10 per cent increase in recovery overall."

The concept isn't all that complex – apply something that will improve liquid flow in the ground and all of a sudden, access to more oil is possible.

Wavefront's injection technology generates a fluid pulse that momentarily expands the pore structure of rock and soil. Using this pressure pulse approach,

the processes move fluid through the ground much like the heart pumps blood through the body, explains the company. As a result, fluid that has never moved before flows freely.

“Everywhere that we go we tend to see the effects of Powerwave as increased oil cut and a slowdown of the decline,” said Davidson, citing one example of an Alberta company that went from a 3.7 per cent a month rate of decline before Powerwave to a .2 per cent a month afterward.

“Every place we have tools installed you see that magnitude of response. Our longest running client is in Alberta down around the Wainwright area and we’ve been there three and a half years. Over that three and a half year period, the decline went from about four per cent a month, and right now it’s one and a half – and it’s been one and a half for nearly three years.”

Wavefront provides both permanent installations used for flooding, and the temporary ones used for well stimulation. While their presence in Northeastern BC has been limited to temporary activities, Davidson suggested that there were a number of situations and locations in the region where his process could be used to good advantage and where he could see permanent applications in the near future.

Along with the ‘green’ element of maximizing recovery, Powerwave’s ability to optimize liquids means they can offer solutions beyond the controversial water or steam injection.

“It’s a large issue these days, companies using fresh water in order to generate steam,” said Davidson. “If we can’t have access to fresh water aquifers to generate steam, the next logical step would be to look at chemical methods.”

Powerwave can optimize the performance of existing methods such as chemical EOR technologies, liquid CO2 injection and surfactant-polymer flooding as well.

“The most important thing that we at Wavefront try to leave as a message is that we have a technology that can bring an additional five or 10 per cent reserves. We can do that without further drilling. If your looking at it from an environmental impact, that is a large upside for many companies and obviously for many people that want to see a greener environment that also lends itself to meeting those goals,” concluded Davidson. **NWB**



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