

Topic: Well Treatment Claims

When water wells suffer from significant production losses it becomes necessary to treat the wells to get the flow back. Very often a specific capacity readings are taken before treatment and then again afterwards. The success of a treatment is based on the percentage increase in the specific. For example a well that had an initial specific capacity of 5gpm/ft and had a post treatment capacity of 15gpm/ft would be considered to have undergone a 200% improvement in specific capacity. While that may sound impressive the only valid comparison should be with the original specific capacity taken when the well was first developed. If the original specific capacity was 50gpm/ft then taking this as 100% would mean that the treatment only recovered the well from 10% to 30% an improvement of only 20% towards the original specific capacity!

In calling for a preventative maintenance or radical regenerative treatment it important to judge success on the basis of the original specific capacity of the newly developed well and theoretically no improvement can be greater than 100%. Many well treatment companies tend to favor the use of the pre-treatment specific capacity to determine gain because much greater percentile claims can be made not restricted to the 0 to 100% range. Caution should be observed when any claim exceeds 100% and care must be taken to ensure that the original specific capacity of the newly developed well is being used.

Where preventative maintenance has been applied it is reasonable to consider a 10 to 15% improvement as being adequate given that the well would not have lost more than 15%. For radical rehabilitative treatments applied regenerate the well then improvement may commonly be in the 20 to 40% range returning the well to within 10% of its original specific capacity. Generally water wells that lost more than 40% of the original specific capacity cannot be effectively regenerated and improvements of 30 to 40% towards the original may be viewed as successful treatments.

Caution should be taken with any claims that exist 100% because this would mean the claimant was exaggerating the value of the well treatment. Given that the post-development original specific capacity was set as 100% then the target should always be to kept the well as close as possible to that ideal goal. Any treatments claimed would forms only a percentage improvement in the well and should never exceed 100%.