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SUBJECT: **GROUND WATER SECTION GUIDANCE NO. 34:** ***Cement bond logging techniques and interpretation***

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TO: All Section Staff
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These procedures are to be followed when running and interpreting cement bond logs for injection and production (area of review) wells.

PART I - PREPARE THE WELL

Allow cement to cure for a sufficient time to develop full compressive strength. A safe bet is to let the cement cure for 72 hours. If you run the bond log before the cement achieves its maximum compressive strength, the log may show poor bonding. Check cement handbooks for curing times.

Circulate the hole with a fluid (either water or mud) of uniform consistency. Travel times are influenced by the type of fluid in the hole. If the fluid changes between two points, the travel times may "drift," causing difficulty in interpretation and quality control.

Be prepared to run the cement bond log under pressure to reduce the effects of micro-annulus. Micro-annulus may be caused by several reasons, but the existence of a micro-annulus does not necessarily destroy the cement's ability to form a hydraulic seal. If the log shows poor bonding, rerun the log with the slightly more pressure on the casing as was present when the cement cured. This will cause the casing to expand against the cement and close the micro-annulus.

PART II - PARAMETERS TO LOG

Amplitude (mV) - This curve shows how much acoustic signal reaches a receiver and is an important indicator of cement bond. Record the amplitude on the 3 foot spaced receiver.

Travel time (μs) - This curve shows the amount of time it takes an acoustic signal to travel between the source and a receiver. For free pipe of a given size and weight, the travel time between points is very predictable although variable among different company's tools. Service companies should be able to provide accurate estimates of travel times for free pipe of a given size and weight. Travel time is required as a quality control measurement. Record the travel time on the 3 foot spaced receiver.

Variable density (VDL) - Pipe signals, formation signals, and fluid signals are usually easy to recognize on the VDL. If these signals can be identified, a practical determination for the presence or absence of cement can be made. VDL is logged on the 5 foot spaced receiver.

Casing collar locator (CCL) - Used to correlate the bond log with cased hole logs and to match casing collars with the collars that show up on the VDL portion of the display.

Gamma ray - Used to correlate the bond log with other logs.

PART III - LOGGING TECHNIQUE

Calibrate the tool in free pipe at the shop, prior to, and following the log run. Include calibration data with log.

Run receivers spaced 3 feet and 5 feet from transmitter.

Run at least 3 bow-type or rigid aluminum centralizers in vertical holes, 6 centralizers in directional holes. A CCL is not an adequate centralizer.

Complete log header with casing/cement data, tool/panel data, gate settings and tool sketch showing centralizers.

Set the amplitude gate so that skipping does not occur at amplitudes greater than 5 mV.

Record amplitude with fixed gate, and note position on log.

Record amplified amplitude on a 5X scale for low amplitudes.

Record amplitude and travel time on the 3 foot receiver.

Record travel time on a 100 μs scale (150 - 250, 200 - 300).

Logging speed should be approximately 30 ft/min.

Log repeat sections.

PART IV - QUALITY CONTROL

Compare the tool calibration data to see if the tool "drifts" during logging. Differences in the calibration data may require you to re-log the well to obtain reliable data.

Compare repeat sections to see if logging results are repeatable.

Check the logged free pipe travel times with the service company charts for the specific tool and casing size used. Since the travel times depend on such factors as casing weight, type of fluid in the hole, etc., these charts should be used only as guidelines. When you are confident of the free-pipe travel times as seen on the log, use them.

When interpreting the log, a decrease in travel time (faster times) with simultaneous reduction of amplitude may show a de-centered tool.

A 4 to 5 micro-second (μs) decrease in travel time corresponds to about a 35% loss of amplitude. A decrease in travel time more than 4 to 5 μs is unacceptable.

PART V - LOG INTERPRETATION

Do not rely on the service company charts for amplitudes corresponding to a good bond. These amplitudes depend on many factors: type of cement used, fluid in the hole, etc.

To estimate bond index, choose intervals on the log that correspond to 0% bond and 100% bond. Read the amplitude corresponding to 100% bond from the best-bonded interval on the log (NOTE: the accuracy of this amplitude reading is very critical to the bond index calculations). Next, find the amplitude corresponding to 0% bond. Some bond logs may not include a section with free pipe. In this instance, choose the appropriate free-pipe travel time from the service company charts for your specific tool, or from the generalized chart (TABLE 2) at the end of this guidance. To calculate a bond index of 80%, use the following equation:

Where: A_{80} = Amplitude at 80% bond (mV)

$$A_{80} = 10^{[(0.2)\log(A_0)+(0.8)\log(A_{100})]}$$

A_0 = Amplitude at 0% bond (mV)
A_{100} = Amplitude at 100% bond (mV)

EXAMPLE:
As an example, consider a bond log showing the following conditions:

- Free pipe (0% bond) amplitude at 81 mV
- 100 % bond amplitude at 1 mV.

Substituting the above values into the equation results in:

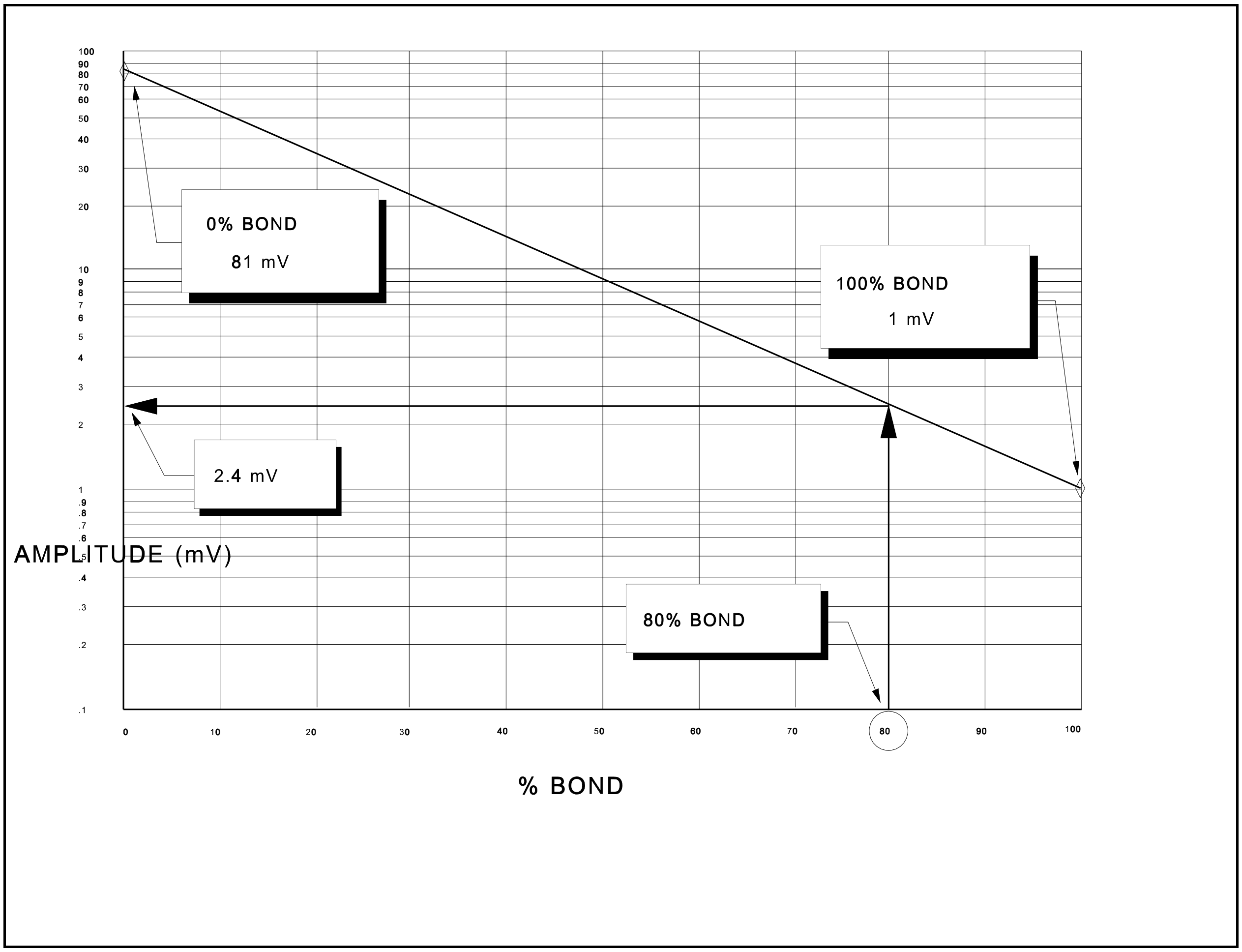
$$A_{80} = 10^{[(0.2)\log(81)+(0.8)\log(1)]}$$

$$A_{80} = 2.41mV$$

Another way to calculate the amplitude at 80% bond is by plotting these same log readings on a semi-log chart.

Plot the values for 0% Bond and 100% Bond vs. their respective Amplitudes on a semi-log chart - amplitudes on the log scale (y-axis), and bond indices on the linear scale (x-axis). Then, connect the points with a straight line. To estimate the amplitude corresponding to an 80% Bond Index, enter the graph on the x-axis at 80% bond. Draw a straight line upward until you reach the diagonal line connecting the 0% and 100% points. Continue by drawing a horizontal line to the y-axis. This point on the y-axis is the amplitude corresponding to an 80% Bond Index.

Using the values from the example above, your chart will look like that shown below:



In this example, 80% bond shows an amplitude of 2.4 mV.

A convenient way to evaluate the log is to draw a line on the bond log's **amplified** amplitude (5X) track corresponding to the calculated 80% bond amplitude. Whenever the logged **amplified** amplitude (5X) curve drops below (to the left of) the drawn line, this indicates a bond of 80% or more.

PART IV - CONCLUSIONS – REMINDERS

Different pipe weights and cement types will affect the log readings, so be mindful of these factors in wells with varying pipe weights and staged cement or squeeze jobs.

Collars generally do not show up on the VDL track in well- bonded sections of casing.

Longer (slower) travel time due to cycle skipping or cycle stretch usually suggests good bonding.

Shorter (faster) travel times indicate a de-centered tool or a fast formation and will provide erroneous amplitude readings that make evaluation impossible through that section of the log. Fast formations do not assure that the cement contacts the formation all around the borehole.

Although the bond index is important, you should not base your assessment of the cement quality on that one factor alone. You should use the VDL to support any indication of bonding. Also, you must know how each portion of the CBL (VDL, travel time, amplitude, etc.) influences another.

Most 3'-5' CBL's cannot identify a 1/2" channel in cement. Therefore, you also need to consider the thickness of a cemented section needed to provide zone isolation. For adequate isolation in injection wells, the log should indicate a continuous 80% or greater bond through the following intervals as seen in TABLE 1, below:

TABLE 1 - INTERVALS FOR ADEQUATE BOND

PIPE DIAMETER (in)	***CONTINUOUS INTERVAL WITH BOND ≥ 80% (ft)***
4-1/2	15
5	15
5-1/2	18
7	33
7-5/8	36
9-5/8	45
10-3/4	54

<u>Adequately bonded cement by itself will not prevent fluid movement</u>.

If the bond log shows adequate bond through an interval where the geology allows fluid to move (permeable and/or fractured zones), fluids may move around perfectly bonded cement by traveling through the formation.

<u>Always</u> cross-check your bond log with open hole logs to see that you have adequate bonding through the proper interval(s).

TABLE 2 - TRAVEL TIMES AND AMPLITUDES FOR FREE PIPE (3 FT RECEIVER)

CASING SIZE (in)	CASING WEIGHT (lb/ft)	TRAVEL TIME (µs) 1-11/16" TOOL	TRAVEL TIME (µs) 3-5/8" TOOL	AMPLITUDE (mV)
4-1/2	9.5	252	233	81
	11.6	250	232	81
	13.5	249	230	81
5	15.0	257	238	76
	18.0	255	236	76
	20.3	253	235	76
5-1/2	15.5	266	248	72
	17.0	265	247	72
	20.0	264	245	72
	23.0	262	243	72
7	23.0	291	271	62
	26.0	289	270	62
	29.0	288	268	62
	32.0	286	267	62
	35.0	284	265	62
	38.0	283	264	62
7-5/8	26.4	301	281	59
	29.7	299	280	59
	33.7	297	278	59
	39.0	295	276	59
9-5/8	40.0	333	313	51
	43.5	332	311	51
	47.0	330	310	51
	53.5	328	309	51
10-3/4	40.5	354	333	48
	45.5	352	332	48
	51.0	350	330	48
	55.5	349	328	48