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Effect of Trace 100 vppm H₂S on the Corrosion Behaviour of Plain Carbon and Microalloyed Steels in a Predominant Sweet Environment in High Flow Regime

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We investigate the effects of the presence of trace (100 vppm) H₂S on the corrosion behaviour of plain carbon steel and its various micro-alloyed counterparts in a CO₂ saturated (sweet) brine (0.5 M NaCl) environment, in a high flow regime (1000 RPM), at 80°C in a slightly acidic environment (pH 6.6). Potentiostatic current transients indicate that the presence of trace amount of trace H₂S in a predominantly sweet regime, where the partial pressure ratio of CO₂ and H₂S (pCO₂:pH₂S) is ~10000:1, shows a very different corrosion behaviour for both plain carbon steels and as well as micro-alloyed steels. In presence of trace H₂S, current density starts dropping much earlier compared to H₂S free standalone CO₂ environment. Trace amount of H₂S also induces faster passivation of the corrosion scale, especially for alloys with relatively high Mo (0.7 wt.%) and Ni (1.4 wt.%) content, suggesting that Mo and Ni have a strong effect in presence of trace H₂S. On the basis of available literature, we speculate that the effects observed in presence of trace H₂S is due to the formation of Mackinawite which forms on the steel surface immediately via solid state reaction and micro-alloying with some specific elements catalyzes the formation of mackinawite and/or assists formation of more stable sulfide phase(s), causing a faster current drop and passivation. Modeling of the hypothesis is currently in progress. Keywords: Micro-alloying, CO₂ corrosion, Flow effect, RDE, Plain carbon steel, Cr-Mo-Ni steel. Figure: Potentiostatic current transient

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for various plain carbon and micro-alloyed steels. Condition - pH: 6.6, Temp: 80oC, Flow: 1000 RPM, @
anodic over potential: Open Circuit Potentials (OCP) + 150 mV