APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Title: Large Inside Diameter Completion With Position Indication

Inventor: John B. Weirich

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The field of this invention relates to downhole completion assemblies and more particularly to those that place the position locaters for through packer assemblies above the packer to reduce restriction presented by position locators traditionally placed below a completion packer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Gravel pack systems allow many downhole procedures to take place in a single trip. A gravel pack assembly typically contains sections of screen that extend from a packer. An inner string that includes a crossover tool is movable with respect to the set packer for selective sealing relation with a polished bore in the packer. In this manner fluids can be circulated when the assembly is run in and gravel can be deposited outside the screens while return fluids can come up through the screens and up a wash pipe. These return fluids can then pass through a valve in an uphole direction and go through the crossover and back to the surface through the annulus above the set packer. Alternatively, the crossover can allow the gravel to be deposited with fluid squeezed into the formation in a procedure called a frac pack. The crossover is simply positioned with respect to the packers and seal bores in a manner where no return port through the wash pipe and back to the surface is open.

[0003] Regardless of whether the gravel is deposited with fluid returns to the surface or whether the fluid is forced into the formation when the gravel is deposited outside the screens, the excess gravel in the string leading down to the crossover has to be removed, typically by a process called reversing out. In this step the crossover is repositioned so that fluid pumped from the surface in the annular space above the packer is allowed into the tubing above the packer so that the excess gravel can be brought to the

surface. It is the locating of these positions downhole that is vital to the correct operation of the tool. Performing this procedure can build pressure near the crossover and a risk of fluid loss to the formation with this built up pressure is a possibility. Fluid loss to the formation can diminish its productivity and excessive fluid loss to the formation may inhibit or prevent reverse circulating of the excess gravel from the workstring. For these reasons a fluid loss control valve in the wash pipe extending into a packer seal bore from the crossover has been used. These fluid loss control valves are illustrated in patents relating to gravel packing operations such as USPs 7,290,610; 7,128,151; 7,032,666 and 6,983,795.

[0004] As an introduction to an understanding of the preferred embodiment, a brief discussion of the prior designs and the issues it presented will be undertaken in a summary form. FIG. 1 shows a common prior art assembly for gravel packing. A wellbore **20** has a string **22** with a packer **24** shown in a set position. A crossover tool **26** with a wash pipe **28** extends through a screen assembly **30** that is properly located by a formation **31** using a tubular spacer **29**. The screen assembly **30** has profiles **32** on which a collet **34** that is connected to the wash pipe **28** can be landed to provide the desired flow configurations for the gravel packing operation. In order to direct fluid flow it is necessary that the packer **24** sealing bore **38'** be compatible with the crossover tool **26**, such that the crossover tool seals in the seal bore. In the FIG. 1 position a fluid loss control valve **36** is locked in the open position. The FIG. 1 position allows circulation with flow coming down the string **22** and going through the crossover tool **26** to emerge outside the screen assembly **30**. Flow then goes through the screen assembly **30** and into the wash pipe **28** and through the flow control valve **36** and back through the crossover tool **26** to the annulus above packer **24** and around the string **22** to the surface.

[0005] Note that in FIG. 1 the collet **34** is set down on one of the profiles **32** to define a circulating position. In FIG. 2 the collet **34** is back to the same position as in FIG. 1 to define a position for delivering gravel **27** either by circulation or by what's called a frac pack where the returns in the annulus **44** above the packer **24** are shut off at the surface. After that, further string manipulation in FIGS. 3 and 4 allows the collet **34** to indicate in different locations and directions on profiles **32** so as to place the internal

assembly in position to evacuate excess gravel from the crossover tool **26** in FIG. 3 and from the string above the packer **24** in FIG. 4.

[0006] With this prior art configuration and the crossover tool **26** sealing in the packer **24** sealing bore **38'** it was necessary to have the profiles **32** smaller than the packer **24** sealing bore **38'**. As a result when the well is put on production, the profiles present resistance to production flow through the screen assembly **30**.

[0007] The present invention is directed at finding an alternative location for these profiles and the preferred location is in a region above the packer where the profiles can be larger since the annulus above the packer need not be as large as below it since only screened returns pass through that annulus. These and other aspects of the present invention will become more apparent from a review of the description of the preferred embodiment and the associated drawing while recognizing that the appended claims define the literal and equivalent scope of the invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] A completion assembly has a packer for zone isolation and indicating shoulders incorporated into a sleeve mounted uphole of the packer. Locating the indicating shoulders above the packer allows them to be larger than placement below the packer where the assembly generally has to neck down to create sealing points and a sufficiently large annular space to permit operations such as gravel packing. Placement above the packer makes the indicating shoulders less restrictive to subsequent production flow or for passage of tools further down the wellbore.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 is a section view of a gravel packing assembly known in the art in a circulating position;

[0010] FIG. 2 is the view of FIG. 1 with the assembly in a frac pack mode;

[0011] FIG. 3 is the view of FIG. 2 with the assembly in position to reverse out excess gravel from the crossover tool;

[0012] FIG. 4 is the view of FIG. 3 with the assembly in position to reverse out excess gravel from the string above the crossover;

[0013] FIG. 5 is a section view of the present invention showing the indicating shoulders above the packer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0014] FIG. 5 shows the packer of FIGS. 1-4 and now labeled **24'** as a quick way to understand the difference from the prior technique, described above in a gravel packing context, and the present invention applied to the same technique to illustrate one application of the present invention. The collet **34'** is the same but it is now positioned above the packer **24'** and still on string **22'** which continues to the surface (not shown). A setting tool **100** is part of the string **22'** and incorporates a sleeve **102** with preferably integrated landing shoulder assemblies **104**, **106** and **108**. The collet **34'** can land on an upper surface such as **110** or a lower surface **112** on any of the landing shoulder assemblies. The crossover tool **26'** is shown adjacent the packer **24'**. In the FIG. 5 position, the crossover tool **26'** is landed on the packer **24'**. While such a position defined in the previous sentence could be accomplished in the design of FIGS. 1-4, there are multiple positions required to execute a procedure such as a frac pack or gravel pack and a single landing position of the crossover tool **26'** on the packer **24'** is not sufficient.

[0015] Optionally, flow control valve having a sleeve **200** to selectively cover a port **202** such as an RB valve offered by Baker Oil Tools can be placed in the sleeve **102** to control fluid flow into the formation. Setting sleeve **102** can set the packer by relative movement with respect to string **22'** in a known manner. After performing the needed downhole operation the string **22'** can be pulled taking with it the setting tool **100**. A production string (not shown) can then be tagged into packer **24'**. The profiles **32** shown in the prior design in FIGS. 1-4 are now larger than they were in the traditional gravel packing operation. For that reason they do not restrict the passage below the packer **24'** as they used to do.

[0016] As an example the sleeve **102** can have an outside diameter of 8.125 inches while the peak **118** can have an inside diameter of 6.625 inches, which is larger than the seal bore **38'** in the packer **24'**. In the prior art location below the packer the peaks of the indicating shoulders **32** would be smaller than the packer seal bore **38** forcing a smaller string to be set in a sealing relationship with the packer **24** than in the present invention shown in FIG. 5 where the full seal bore diameter in the packer can be used without restriction from shoulder assemblies **104**, **106** and **108** after the string **22'** is pulled and a production string (not shown) is inserted.

I claim:

1. A downhole completion method, comprising:

setting a packer having a seal bore downhole;

providing a plurality of indicating shoulders uphole of said packer;

using said shoulders to reposition a service string having at least one engaging member thereon by selectively landing said engaging member on said indicating shoulders without extending said engaging member through said seal bore in said packer.

2. The method of claim **1**, comprising:

making the inside dimension at said indicating shoulders larger than the internal dimension of said seal bore.

3. The method of claim **1**, comprising:

locating the indicating shoulders on a setting sleeve for the packer.

4. The method of claim **1**, comprising:

removing said completion string;

inserting as large a production string into said seal bore in the packer as such seal bore internal dimension can accept, after said removing of said service string.

5. The method of claim **1**, comprising:

providing no indicating shoulders between the packer and screens that said packer supports.

6. The method of claim **2**, comprising:

locating the indicating shoulders on a setting sleeve for the packer.

7. The method of claim **6**, comprising:

removing said service string;

inserting as large a production string into said seal bore in the packer as such seal bore internal dimension can accept, after said removing of said service string.

8. The method of claim **7**, comprising:

providing no indicating shoulders between the packer and screens that said packer supports.

9. The method of claim **3**, comprising:

positioning a flow control valve on said setting sleeve.

10. The method of claim **6**, comprising:
positioning a flow control valve on said setting sleeve.