

# PDC BREAKS RECORDS AND SAVES RUNNING TIME WITH NEW WEDGE TYPE CONNECTION VATITAN®-TC

The VATitan®-TC provides voestalpine Tubulars' customers with an extreme torque casing connection, specifically designed and tested for the most challenging extended reach shale wells.

In early April 2020, PDC Energy became the first customer drilling in the Rockies to run 22,248 feet of voestalpine Tubulars production casing threaded with VATitan®-TC, a wedge type connection with the highest torque rating in the industry. The Ferguson 23G-202 well is located in the Wattenberg Field in the DJ Basin and one of the longest laterals PDC has drilled to date.

Project key data	
Operator	PDC Energy, Inc.
Location	Ferguson 23G-202, DJ Basin
Type of the Well	Shale
True Vertical Depth	6,608 ft (2.01 km)
Lateral Length	15,640 ft (4.77 km)
Rotation	Connection capable of withstanding high torque during rotation applied while installing and cementing casing

PDC approached voestalpine Tubulars to develop a **connection** that would be **suitable for the challenges** encountered with their three mile laterals in its DJ Basin area of operations. The connection needed to be able to endure the high torques applied to the connection during installation and, if necessary, rotation to reach the total depth.

To address these challenges, voestalpine Tubulars' R&D team developed the **VAtitan®-TC** with the intent of providing not only a connection that could withstand extreme torques, but would also provide the end user with advantages in easy handling and fast make-up during installation.





## PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS AND BENEFITS FOR PDC'S OPERATION:

- » **Deep stabbing, low turn make up** > Increases efficiency and speed during installation
- » **Connection performance evaluated for multi-fractured horizontal wells** > Fit for purpose testing includes extreme over torque, fatigue life and combined loads testing
- » **Extreme torque capabilities** > Connection has been physically validated to demonstrate structural integrity even during extreme over-torque scenarios where yield torque is exceeded.



**VAtitan®-TC**  
Wedge-type Connection

The fit for purpose tested casing connection for extreme torque requirements.

PDC Energy successfully installed 22,248 feet of 5.5-inch x 20.00 ppf VA-EP-P110 VAtitan®-TC in the Ferguson 23G-202 well located in the Wattenberg Field in the DJ Basin. With the VAtitan®-TC's deep stabbing, low-turn design, the installation took place in just under 20 hours, with zero breakouts or rejects occurring during the installation.

The initial installation was followed by the successful installation of a second string in the Ferguson 23G-332. The results were repeated on the 332 with improved installation time, and no breakouts or rejections occurring during either of these casing runs.

### Why was voestalpine Tubulars the partner of choice for PDC for this project?

“voestalpine Tubulars and PDC have been long time business partners for Premier Pipe, and the VAtitan connection is just another example of the responsiveness of voestalpine Tubulars to address the challenges PDC faces in the field. Whether the issue is a demand for gas tight connections, or in this application, a need for the highest torque rating in the industry, voestalpine Tubulars has shown to be up to the task.”

*Randall Edwards, President and CEO of Premier Pipe*

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