

Improvement in Brine Management through Pexgol Piping



The impact of Pexgol piping on pump performance improvement and maintenance cost reduction at Sales de Jujuy.



Sales de Jujuy
Argentina | 2023

• Working Conditions

Temperature: Variable

• Pexgol Pipe

Pexgol 160 mm (6"), class 15

• Application

Brine Transport

• Length

2650 m / 8692 ft

The Challenge

Sales de Jujuy S.A. is the operating company of the main Olaroz Lithium Project by Orocobre in Argentina. This facility is located in the province of Jujuy, at an altitude of 3,900 meters above sea level, and produces lithium carbonate from the brine of the Olaroz Salt Flat, which contains high concentrations of lithium and potash. The transportation of brine from the lithium well posed a significant challenge for the company.

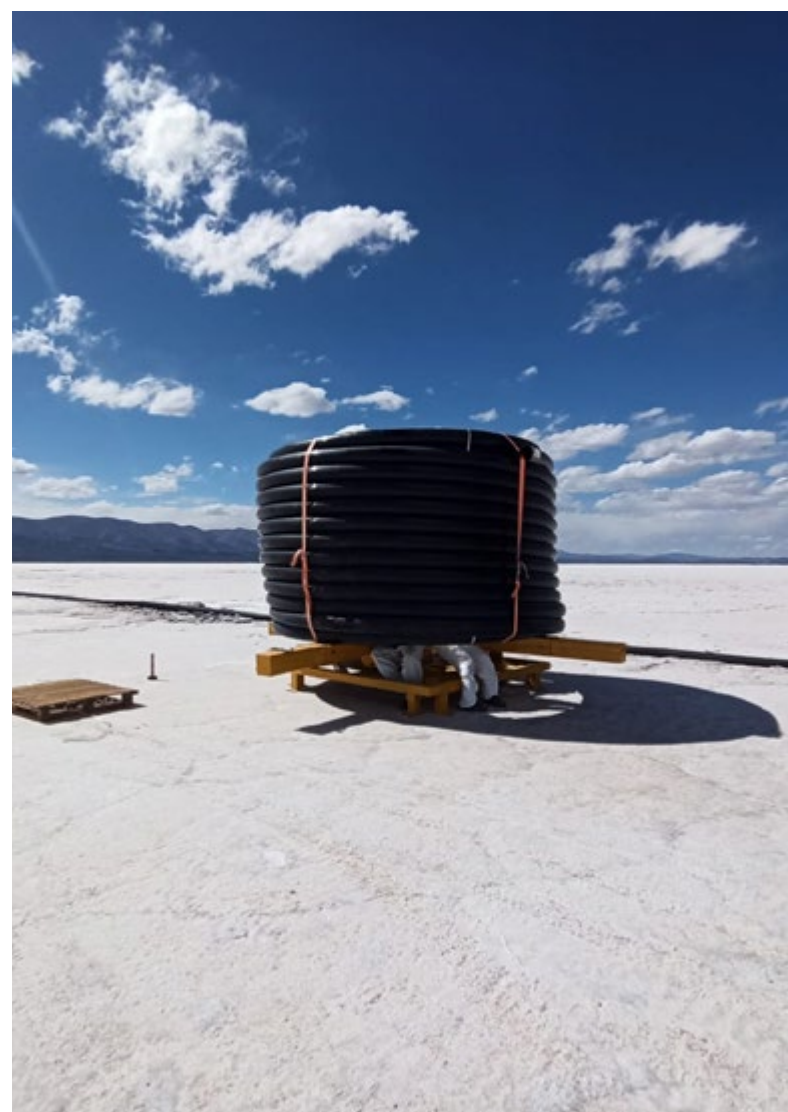
The problem lay in the existing HDPE pipeline, which experienced a pump performance drop three times a month when pumping brine. This situation was caused by pipe clogging due to scale buildup, requiring cleaning that consumed six working days per month. This not only disrupted regular operations but also incurred significant costs for the company.

The Solution

To address this challenge, Sales de Jujuy decided to switch to 160 mm Pexgol piping. They installed 2650 meters of this piping, using double mechanical connectors.

The choice of Pexgol was due to several advantages that this product offered. Firstly, its quick installation significantly reduced the time required for project implementation. Additionally, Pexgol piping is known for its low roughness, which considerably reduces scale buildup.

This change to Pexgol brought immediate and significant results. Line cleaning times and the number of interventions were drastically reduced. In fact, the cleaning time was reduced to only two hours per month, and only at the connections.



The Advantages of Pexgol Pipe Systems



High resistance to wear

Pexgol is the preferred solution for abrasive materials transportation. Typically resists three times more than HDPE and twice more than steel.



Superb internal and external corrosion resistance

Our pipes are proven to withstand decades of exposure to corrosive environments, with nonstop performance in some of the world's harshest environments.



Excellent chemical and corrosion resistance

Pexgol pipes can resist a wide range of chemical agents, slurries, toxic and radioactive materials.



Long pipe sections

Pexgol pipes can be supplied in long coil lengths, reducing number of joints, installation time and risks.



High temperature resistance

Working temperatures can range from -50°C/-58°F up to 110°C/230°F.



Creep and impact resistance

Pexgol pipes can withstand high amounts of axial and radial stresses and are highly resistant to impact, fracture and fatigue. Furthermore, Pexgol pipes are completely resistant to cracks even when dragged over sharp rocky terrain and coagulated salt crystals.

For more information please visit:
pexgol.com

