3rd Variable: △ P

The Second Law of Thermodynamics: Hot Things Cool Down



- During the spill, hot oil in the well heated the casing, cement, and surrounding rock
- After shut-in, the oil in the wellbore cooled
- Colder fluids are denser, so the pressure between capping stack and reservoir increased over time
- U.S. experts have acknowledged this phenomenon, but none attempted to analyze it

Source: TREX 011553-R D23558