

WORLD-CLASS OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL

PROGRAM | EXHIBITION | NETWORKING

HOW AN ON-LINE MONITORING SYSTEM SUCCESSFULLY  
TRIPPED A 4-THROW RECIPROCATING COMPRESSOR ON  
THREE SEPARATE EVENTS PREVENTING MAJOR  
EQUIPMENT DAMAGE AND DOWNTIME

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42<sup>nd</sup> Turbomachinery  
29<sup>th</sup> Pump SYMPOSIA



*The miracles of science™*



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9.30 – 10.3.2013

# Authors

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25 Years with DuPont in LDPE business

20 Years experience on reciprocating compressors  
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12 Years reciprocating compressor monitoring experience

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# Compressor Description

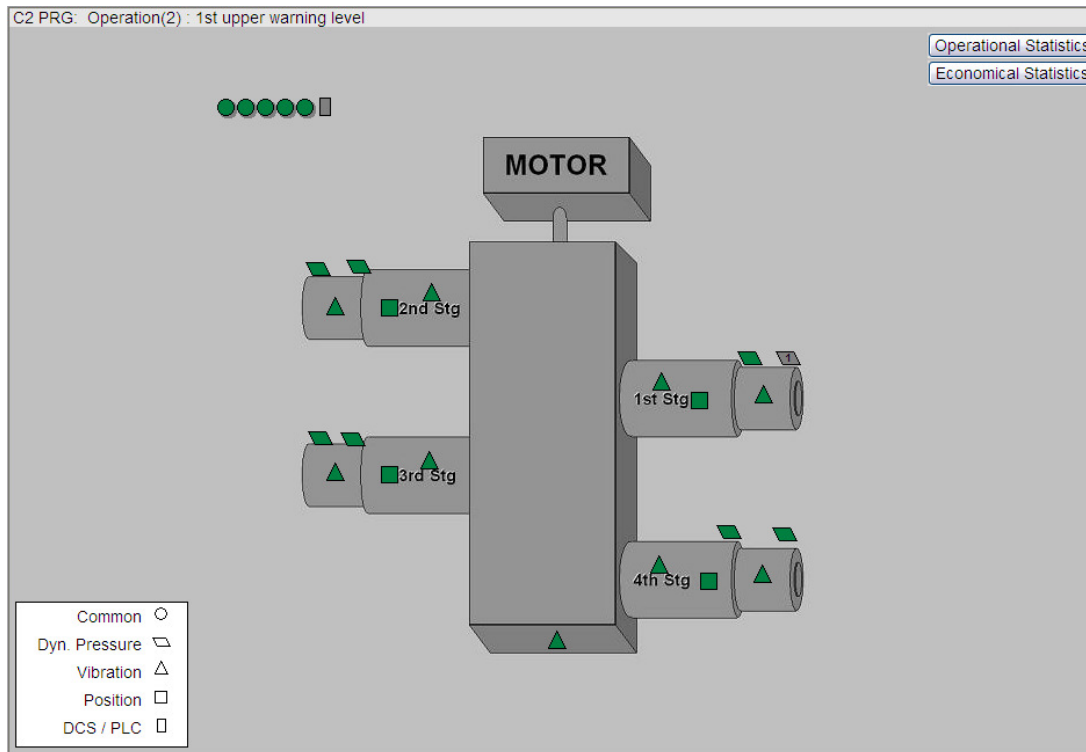
- 514 RPM - 1000 Hp Synchronous motor
- 9.5” stroke
- 4 Stages
- Ethylene Gas
- Suction Press – 2 psig
- Discharge Press – 600 psig
- Interstage cooling, separators and suction snubbers with blowdowns



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# Compressor On-Line Monitoring Installation



## Sensors Installed

- CHS Vibration
- CYL Vibration
- Rod Position \*\*
- CE/HE Pressure
- Roving/Crankcase Vibration

\*\* 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Stg RP added  
Feb. 2012

- System installed and commissioned in January 2011
- Interlocks in service July 2011
- Total of 26 Compressors on site with  
416 Instrument loops



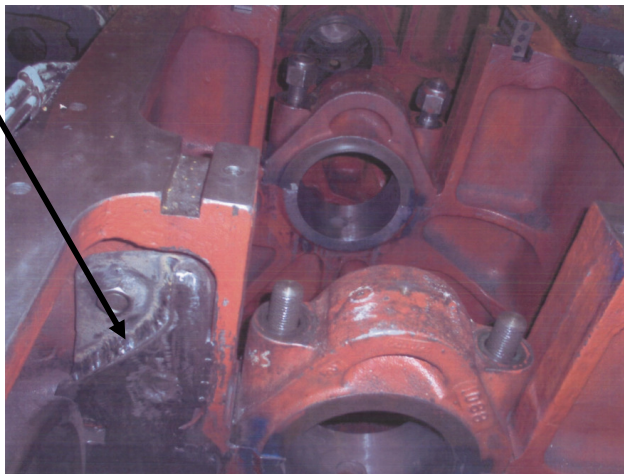
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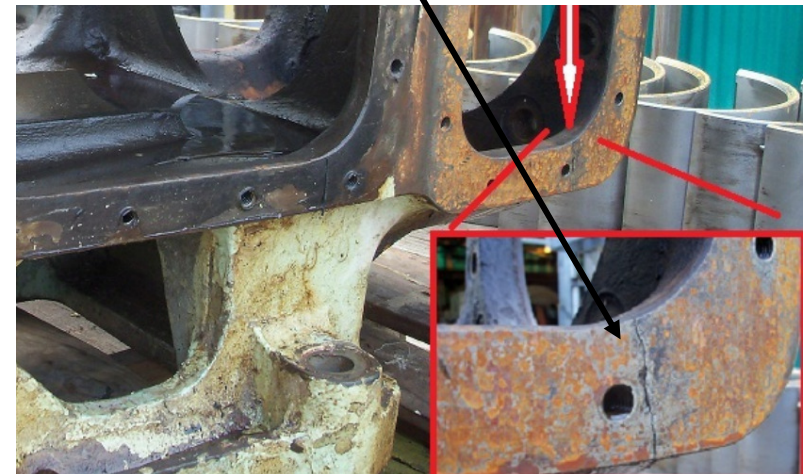
# History of failures prior to Monitoring System

- Known as “Trash” Compressor
- Many valve failures due to liquid
- Several significant failures due to liquid
  - Head bolts found loose
  - 1<sup>st</sup> stage Aluminum piston destroyed
  - Cracks found in crankcase
- Upgrades made to liquid separation system has helped
- When compressor is down, flaring ethylene gas

Metal-Stitch Repairs



Crack in distance piece





# Sequence of Events - Summary

1/11/12	10:14 pm	Interlock due to start-up with compressor full of liquid
2/18/12	6:05 am	Interlock on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS RMS Vibration due to loose piston (from prior event)
2/22/12	12:52 pm	Interlock on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS RMS Vibration due to incorrect crosshead to pin clearance



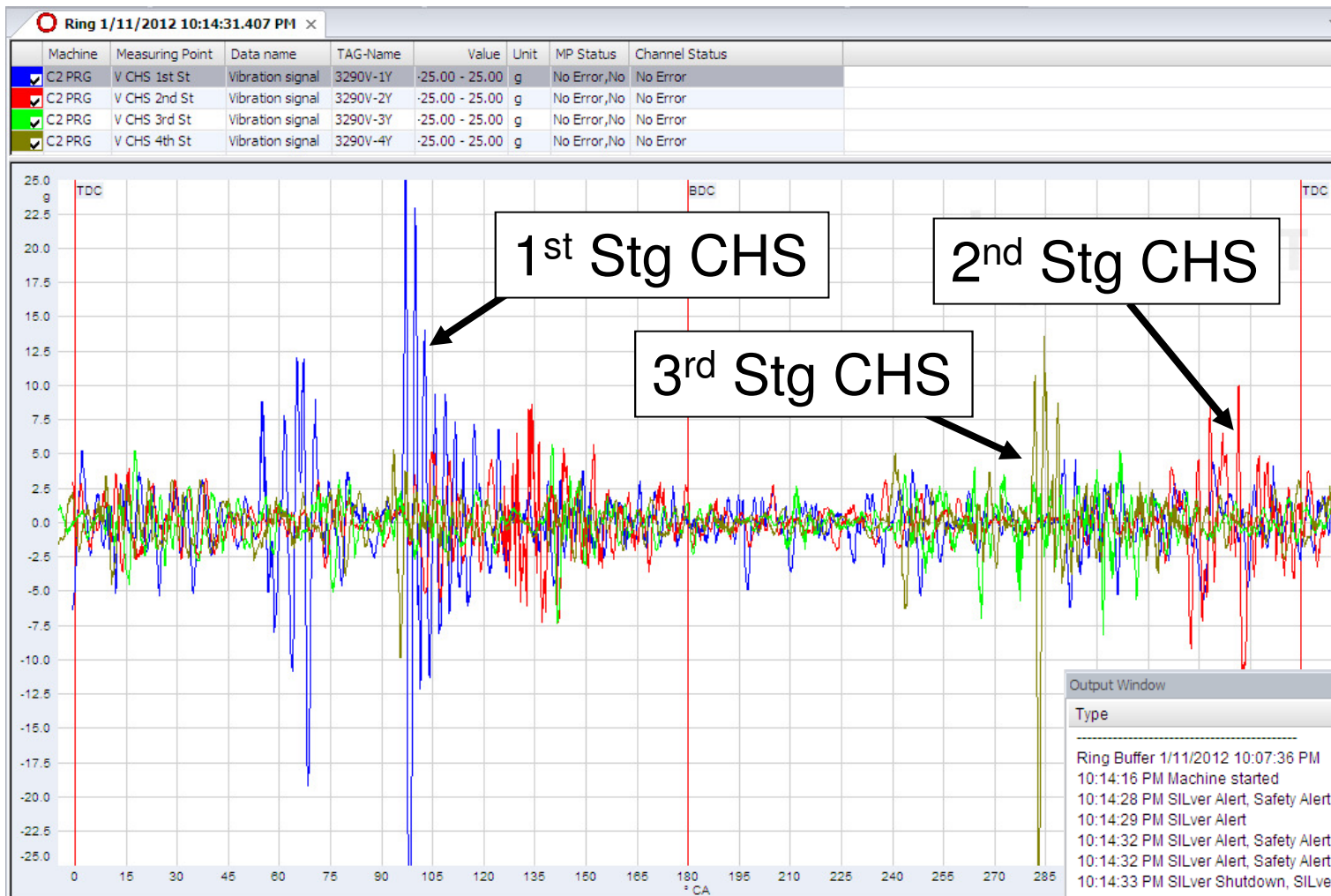
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# Sequence of Events

- 1/11/12 10:14 pm Interlock 17 seconds after started compressor due to being full of liquid
- 1/12/12 – 1/17/12 Repairs made – New valves on all stages, pushed pin on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stage – no wear and clearances OK. Drained liquid from low points.
- 1/17/12 11:30 pm Machine started after repairs
- 2/3/12 10:28 pm Alert on 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS RMS Vibration – Segment 34

# Interlock 17 seconds after started due to liquid



Output Window

Type

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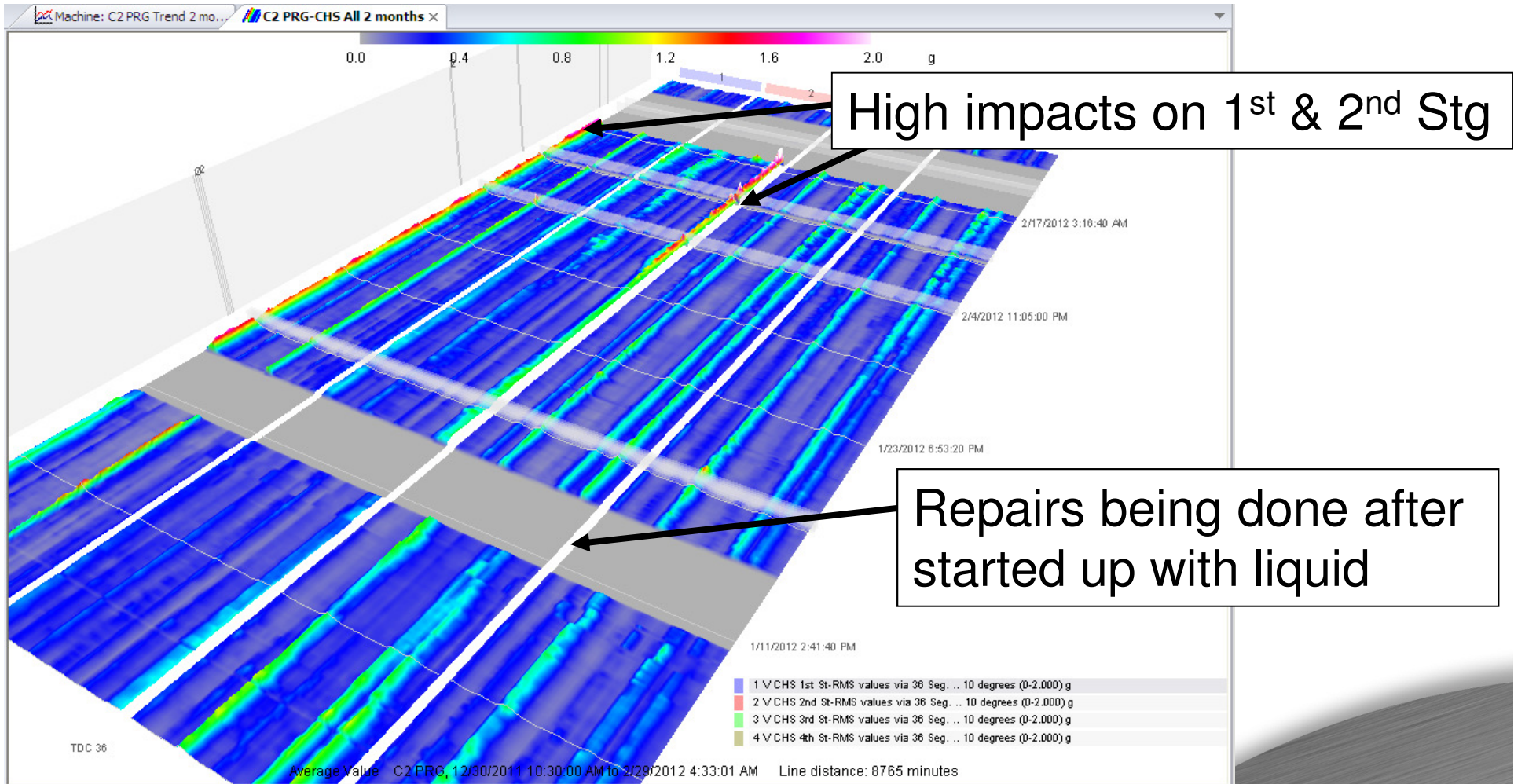
Ring Buffer 1/11/2012 10:07:36 PM  
 10:14:16 PM Machine started  
 10:14:28 PM SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment, V CHS 2nd St  
 10:14:29 PM SILver Alert  
 10:14:32 PM SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment, V CHS 1st St  
 10:14:32 PM SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment, V CHS 2nd St  
 10:14:33 PM SILver Shutdown, SILver Alert  
 10:14:40 PM Machine stopped

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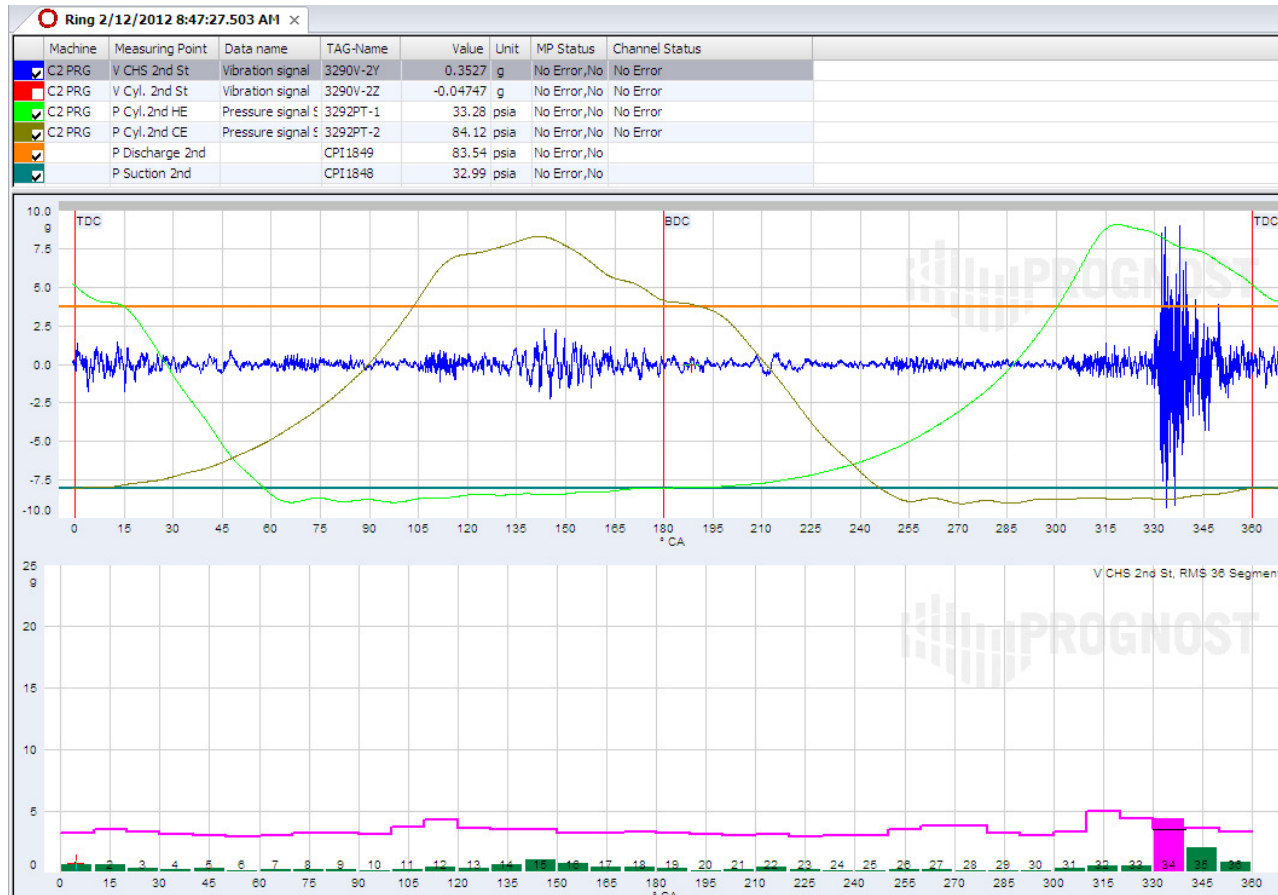
IMP...	1/11/2012 9:14:35 PM	SILver Shutdown, SILver Alert	C2 PRG		
IMP...	1/11/2012 9:14:35 PM	SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment	C2 PRG	Cylinder 2nd	V CHS 2nd St
IMP...	1/11/2012 9:14:35 PM	SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment	C2 PRG	Cylinder 1st	V CHS 1st St



# Suspected problems with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Stages



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS ALERT (2/3/12 until 2/18/12)



IMP...	2/3/2012 10:34:16 PM	Alert for safety limit segment canceled	C2 PRG	Cyl...	V CHS 2nd St
IMP...	2/3/2012 10:34:13 PM	SILver Alert	C2 PRG		
IMP...	2/3/2012 10:34:13 PM	SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment	C2 PRG	Cyl...	V CHS 2nd St
IMP...	2/3/2012 10:28:50 PM	Alert for safety limit segment canceled	C2 PRG	Cyl...	V CHS 2nd St
IMP...	2/3/2012 10:28:47 PM	SILver Alert	C2 PRG		
IMP...	2/3/2012 10:28:47 PM	SILver Alert, Safety Alert Variation, Safety Alert Segment	C2 PRG	Cyl...	V CHS 2nd St
IMP...	1/14/2012 11:37:06 AM	UNSAFE for 'C2 PRG' activated !!!	C2 PRG		



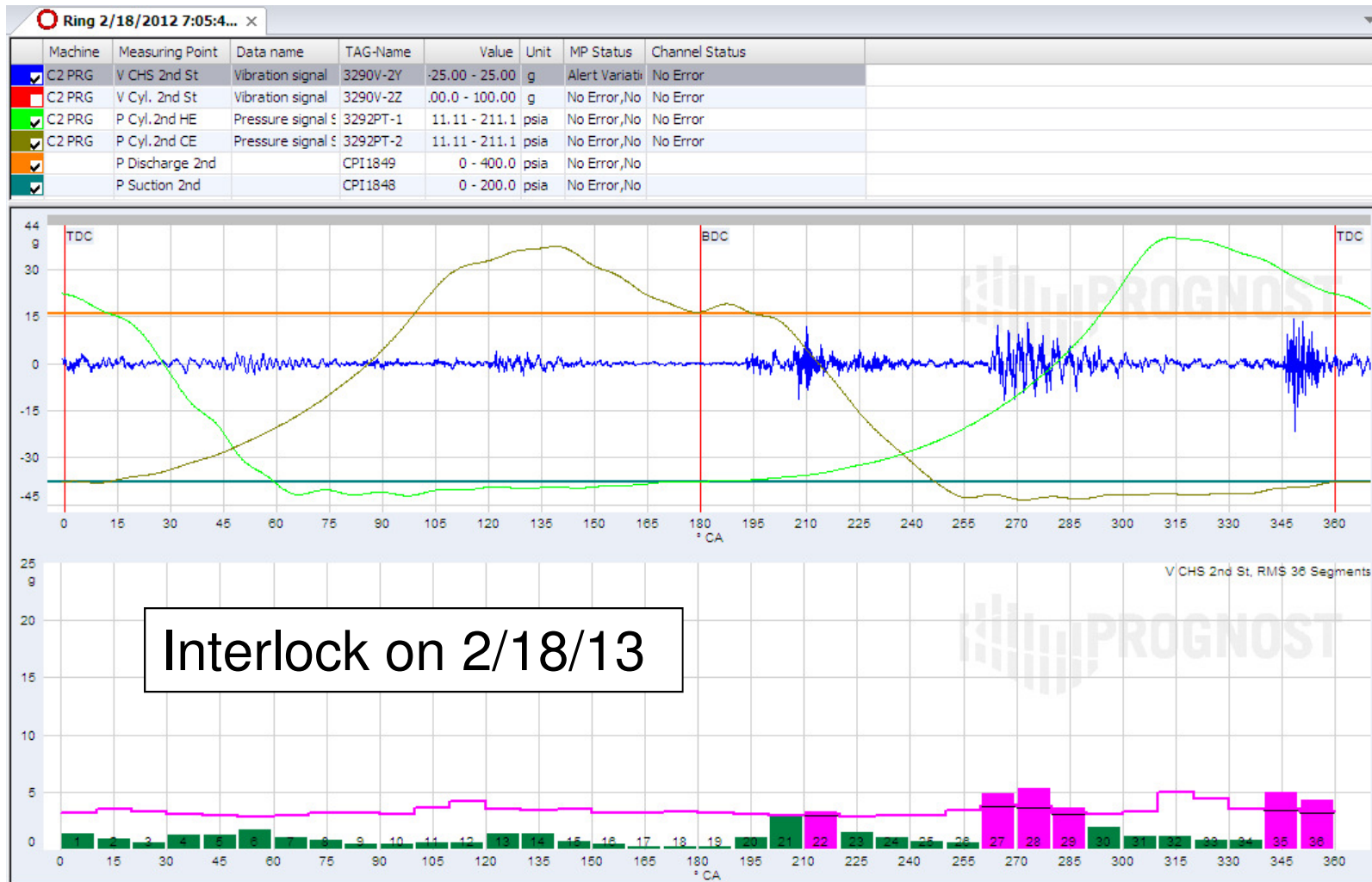
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# Sequence of Events

- 2/18/12 6:05 am Interlock on 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS RMS Vibration
- 2/18/12 6:14 am Started 9 minutes after Interlock (Ooops!) Interlock on 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS RMS Vibration (ran 8 minutes with many segment violations)
- 2/18/12 – 2/22/12 Repairs made – Found loose 2<sup>nd</sup> stage piston nut. Changed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stage pistons/rods, changed 2<sup>nd</sup> stage connecting rod and installed the RP sensors on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stages

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS – Found loose piston nut





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS – Interlock Criteria

Name	Type of Analysis	RAMS	S...	A...	A...	S...	S...	A...	A...	S...	Modified
V CHS 1st St (SILver)	RMS values via 36 Seg. ... 10 degrees		X	X	3	6	5	3	3	36	No
V CHS 2nd St (SILver)	RMS values via 36 Seg. ... 10 degrees		X	X	3	6	5	3	3	36	No
V CHS 3rd St (SILver)	RMS values via 36 Seg. ... 10 degrees		X	X	3	6	5	3	3	36	No
V CHS 4th St (SILver)	RMS values via 36 Seg. ... 10 degrees		X	X	3	6	5	3	3	36	No
RP Cyl. 1st St (SILver)	Peak-Peak over 8 Seg. ... 45 degrees		X	X	10	1	20	1	10	8	No

Graphic | Table | V CHS 2nd St (SILver)

Release active for:

Alert       Shutdown

**Alert**

Vibration, Variation:

Number of segments:

Number of consecutive revolutions:

Vibration - Segment:

Number of consecutive revolutions in the same segment:

Voting

No.      

Machine No.:       Measuring Point No.:

Cylinder No.:       RAMS:

**Shutdown**

Vibration, Variation:

Number of segments:

Number of consecutive revolutions:

Vibration - Dead Center:

A Safety Shutdown Dead Center is generated, if 2 limit violations are realized inside the proximate segments 35, 36, 1, 2, 3 (close to TDC) or 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 (close to BDC).

Number of consecutive revolutions:

2 Sensors::

A Safety Shutdown 2 Sensors is generated, if Safety Alerts occur at least at 2 measuring points of one machine.

Cancel

Interlock Criteria - Any 6 segments above Alert limit for 5 consecutive revolutions



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# Sequence of Events (Cont'd)

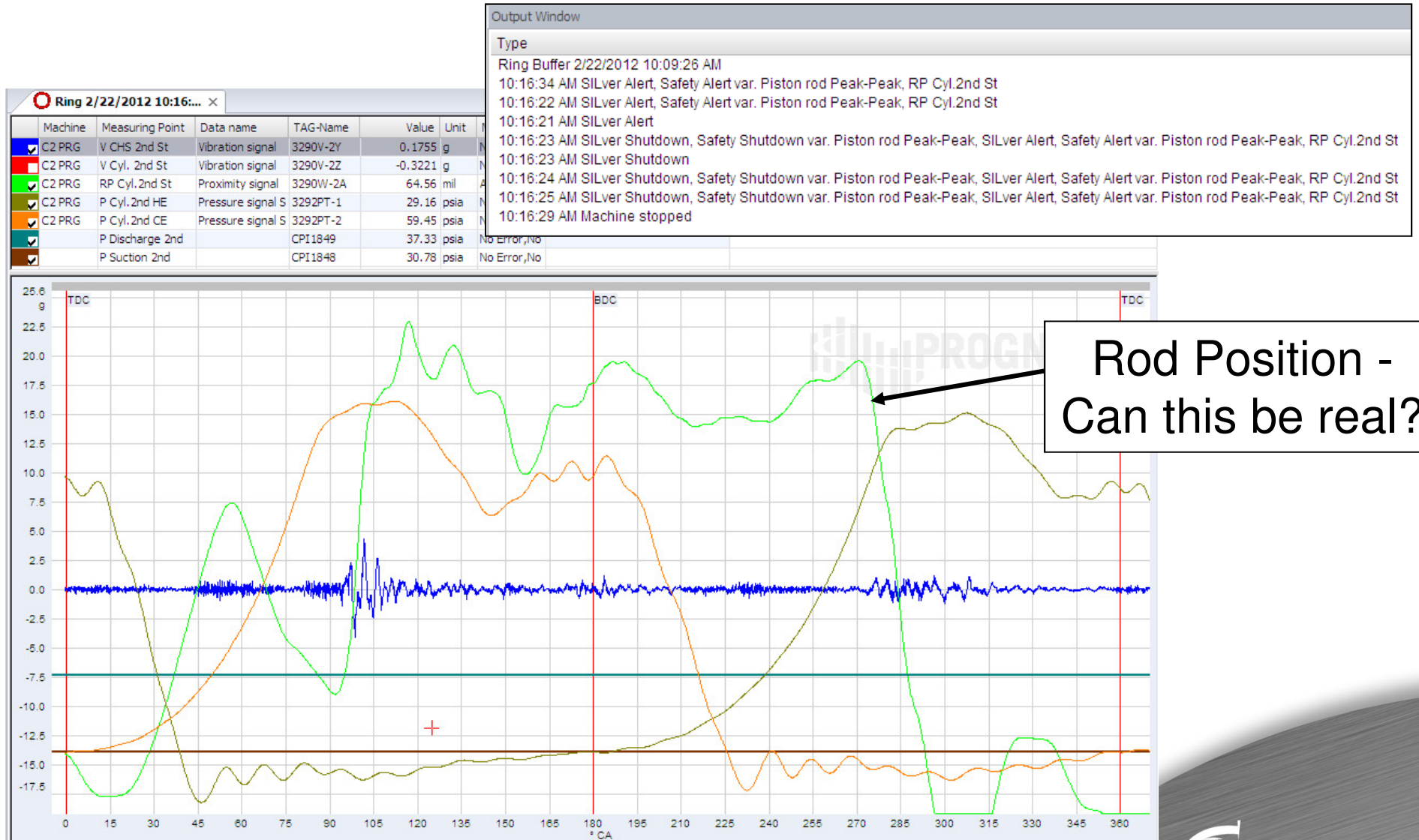
- 2/22/12 10:14 am Machine started after repairs. Interlock 82 seconds after machine started due to 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg Pk-Pk Variation Rod Run Out over 8 segments (suspected liquid)
- 2/22/12 10:41 am Machine started a 2<sup>nd</sup> time after blowing down snubbers. Interlock 63 seconds after machine started due to 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg Pk-Pk Variation Rod Run Out over 8 Segments



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# Start-up after new 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg Rod installed

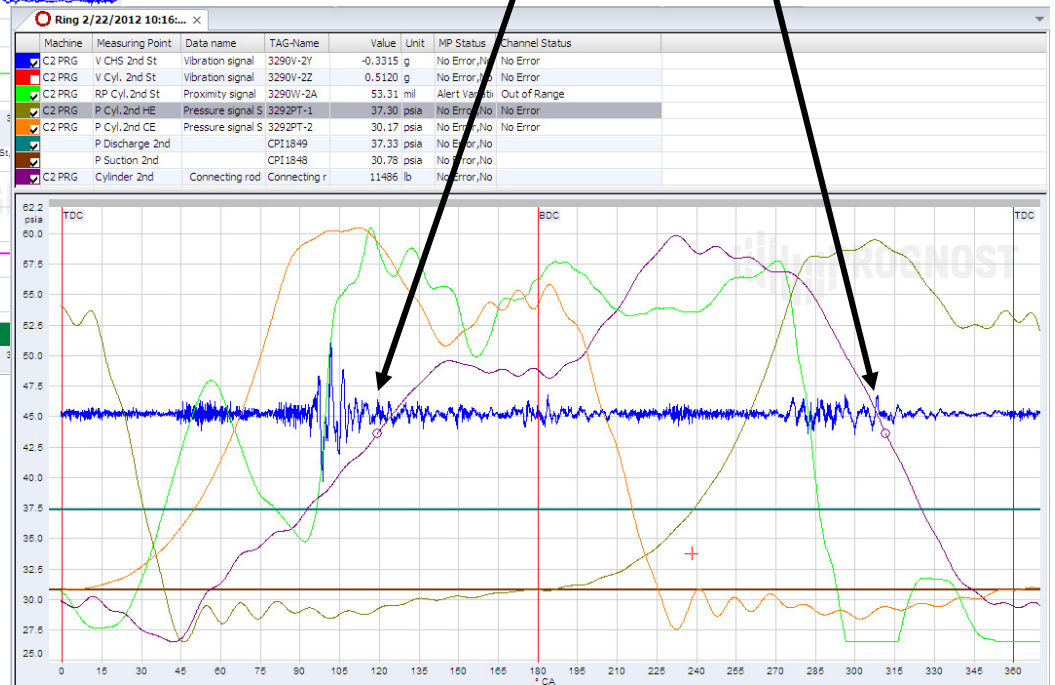


Rod Position -  
Can this be real?

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Reversal points



Reversal Points



# Sequence of Events (Cont'd)

- 2/22/12 11:00 am Raised Pk-Pk Rod Run Out Interlock level from 40 mils to 80 mils
- 2/22/12 12:52 pm Machine started but had interlock 25 seconds later due to 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg CHS RMS Vibration
- 2/22/12 – 2/26/12 Found crosshead pin to crosshead bushing had almost zero clearance. Changed connecting rod, crosshead, crosshead slippers, pin and bushing.
- 2/26/12 9:32 am Machine started and has been running well since



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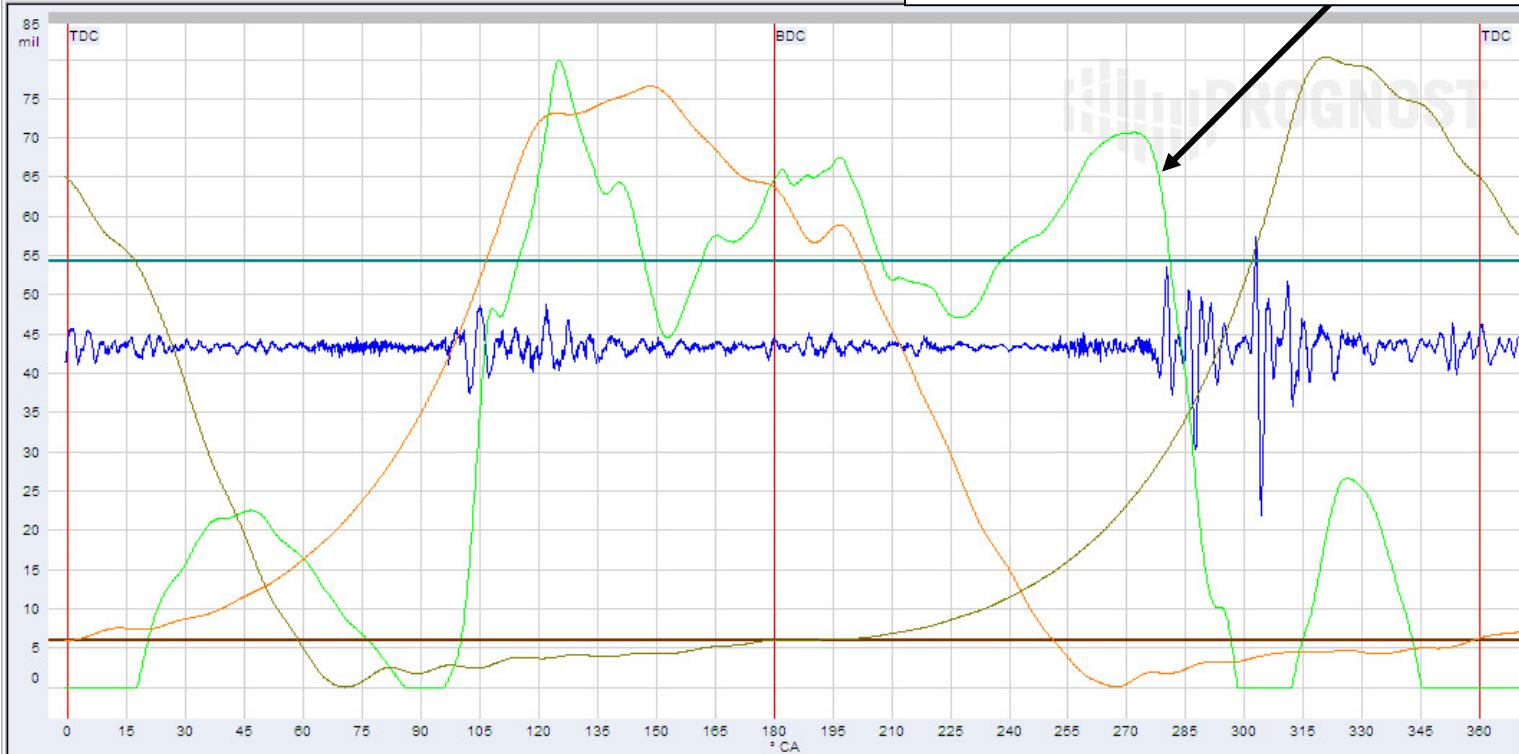
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# After increasing RP Intlk to 80 mils

Ring 2/22/2012 1:51:57.154 PM x

Machine	Measuring Point	Data name	TAG-Name	Value	Unit	MP Status	Channel Status
C2 PRG	V CHS 2nd St	Vibration signal	3290V-2Y	-25.00 - 25.00	g	Analysis Not	No Error
C2 PRG	V Cyl. 2nd St	Vibration signal	3290V-2Z	.00.0 - 100.00	g	No Error, No	No Error
C2 PRG	RP Cyl. 2nd St	Proximity signal	3290W-2A	0 - 85.74	mil	No Error, Ou	Out of Range
C2 PRG	P Cyl. 2nd HE	Pressure signal S	3292PT-1	11.11 - 211.1	psia	No Error, No	No Error
C2 PRG	P Cyl. 2nd CE	Pressure signal S	3292PT-2	11.11 - 211.1	psia	No Error, No	No Error
	P Discharge 2nd		CPI1849	0 - 400.0	psia	No Error, No	
	P Suction 2nd		CPI1848	0 - 200.0	psia	No Error, No	

Almost 80 mils displacement –  
Would have interlocked if left  
At 40 mils Interlock level

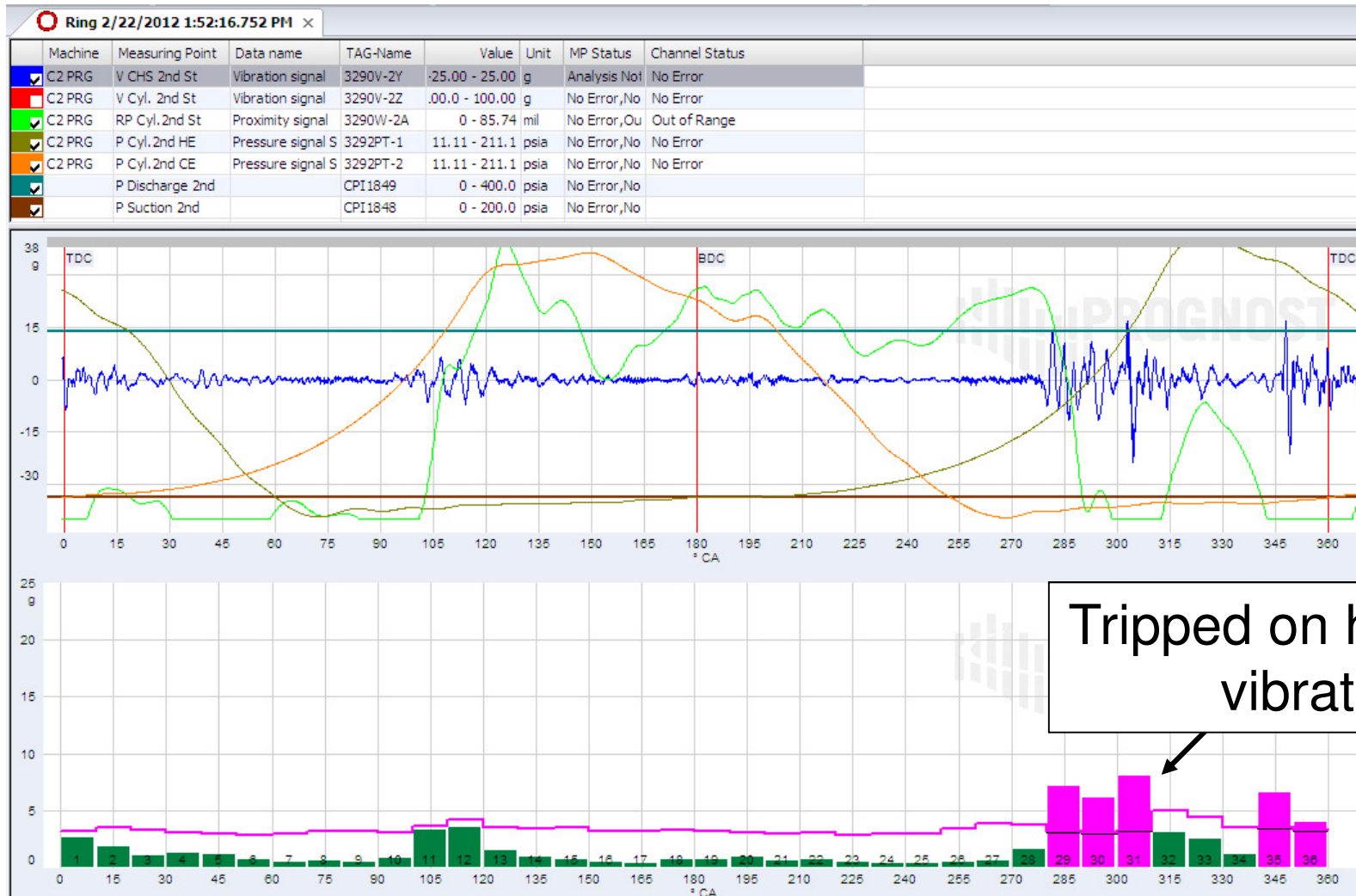


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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stg Pin to Bushing clearance inadequate

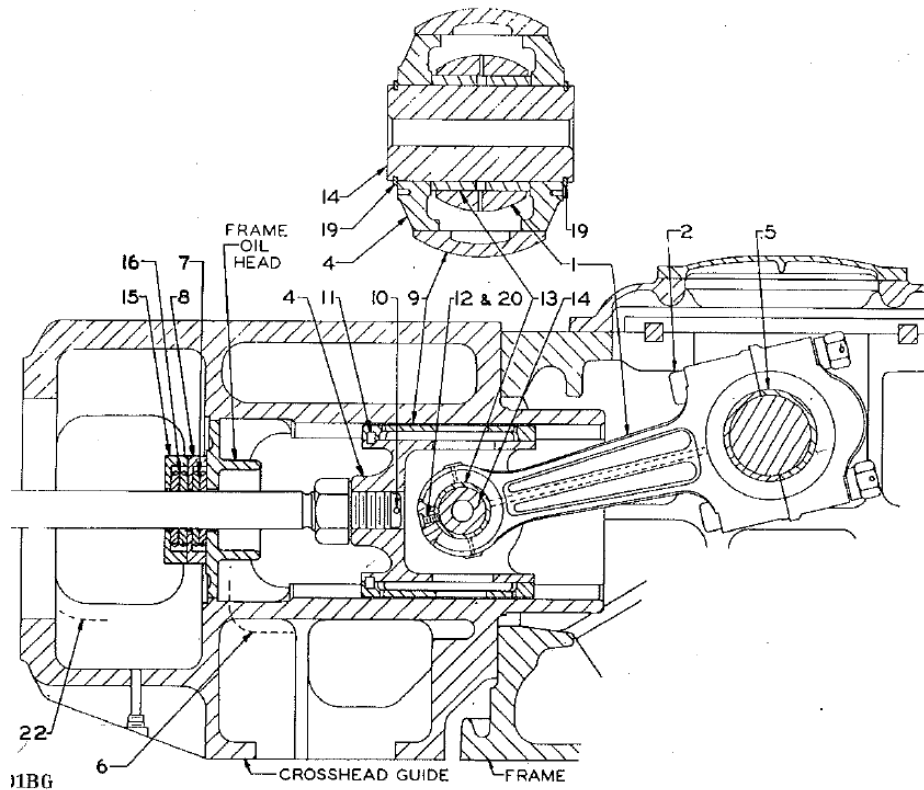


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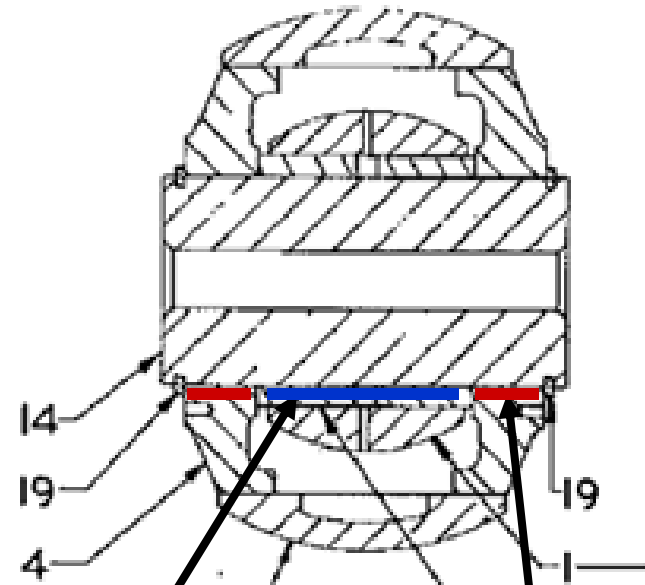
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# Crosshead Design

CROSSHEAD & CONNECTING ROD ASSEMBLY



## Floating Style Pin



0.0015" – 0.0045"  
clearance

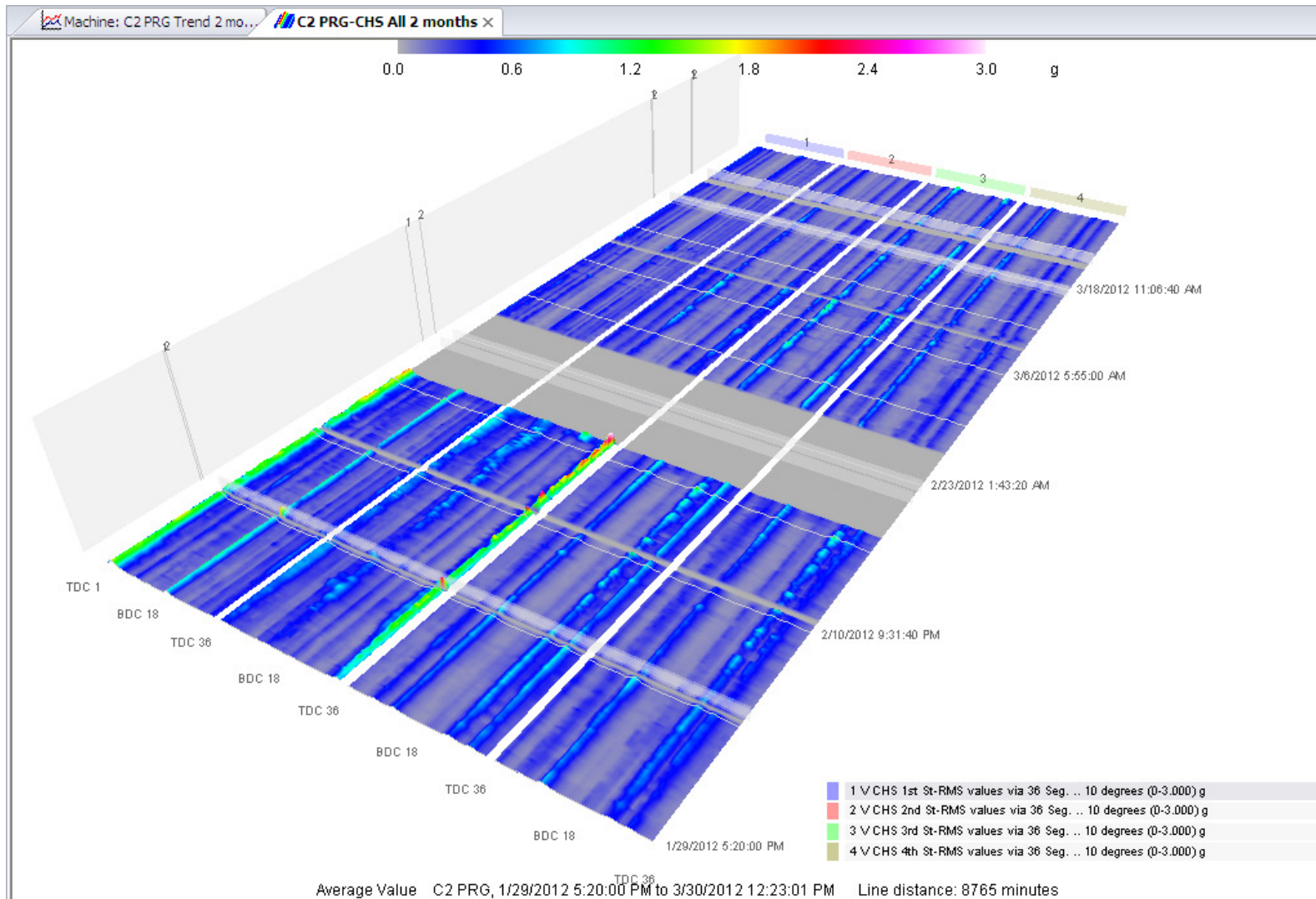
0.0005" - 0.002"  
clearance



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# Smooth operation after final repairs



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# What did we learn...?

- On-Line Compressor Monitoring works
- Believe the data (rod position was real!!)
- Check on a regular basis (ALERTS from 2/3/12 not recognized until 2/12/12)
- Production Protocol when getting ALARMS from System
- Interlock values are set adequately to prevent damage and not have false trips – no significant damage found during any events
- After an event, make sure to do enough checks (liquid at S/U most likely caused the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage piston to get loose over time)
- Source of water was found to be a corroded indicator nipple on 1<sup>st</sup> stage cylinder - replaced with SST indicator



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**Thank you for your attention**

**Questions?**



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