

New waste disposal site goes online



An aerial view of the new Rotex Energy facility, east of Lampman, at Willmar.

Lampman - About 25 kilometres east of Lampman and a similar distance south of Arcola, Rotex Energy Ltd. is setting up a new oilfield waste management facility to service southeast Saskatchewan. The approximately 10-acre complex will not only

take liquid and solid oilfield waste from the oilfield, but also provide frac water from its own source well.

The map reference location is known as Rotex Willmar 11-36-5-4-W2.

Kevin Baumann is the man behind the proj-

ect as president of Rotex. The majority shareholder, he can be found at the site overseeing construction. He's considering moving to the area some day.

"We're a new startup. We've got four projects on the go, we are raising private capital and

we have a great team," he says. Those projects include the Lampman site, another in the Northwest Territories, and a third in the Horn River area of northeastern British Columbia.

The company is also evaluating other waste disposal opportunities in Saskatchewan, which Rotex feels are ripe for the development of facilities with multiple service offerings that are efficient, safe and compliant.

During a visit on Nov. 27, the site was a hive of welders, electricians and labourers. At one end, electricians were busy at work near the frac water pumps, while at the other, numerous welding trucks were backed in as final fabrication work took

place. "This facility is planned to be in operation prior to January 1, 2010," he explains. "We're licensed as a waste processing facility with disposal and source water supply."

The Lampman location, on the southern edge of the Bakken fairway and centrally located, puts it very close to the centre of the action. For instance, a string of drilling and service rigs could be seen operating near Kisbey later the same weekend, just 44 km away. "We feel we're in a pretty good area," Baumann affirms.

The operation will employ about eight to 10 people, operating around the clock.

Water well

There were three key elements to site location: being central, having suitable disposal well geology and a source water well, all in the same immediate area. "We know there's a growing market in southeast Saskatchewan. We see the market for frac water supply, waste processing and disposal as very encouraging," says Baumann.

"We have a really good Mannville disposal." Baumann won't reveal the source water well formation but says, "We scoured this area to find a suitable water source."

The result was a well that was originally drilled for oil, but never panned out. "We proved up a zone in that well

that would give us large volumes of water suitable for fracturing which has been confirmed by independent labs and fracturing companies," he says.

On the east side of the facility is the source water well. To accommodate its production, Rotex has a Saskatchewan environment ministry approved lined storage cell providing a cushion for surges in demand.

"We want to be able not only to produce a large volume, but we want to be able to store it in the event we need it in a hurry," Baumann explains.

Baumann reports they will have close to 50,000 barrels of frac water storage capacity.

There are large two boilers on site meant to heat the water to suitable temperatures which in some cases will result in heating costs savings for on-lease frac water heating. The large boilers, with approximately 15 million BTU of heating power will allow the company to send suitable frac water out the gate at 190 degrees F (87.7 C) if needed.

Baumann speaks of taking the pressure off other water resources, including surface and ground water, for supplying thirsty frac operations. Water use restrictions are already coming into effect in certain parts of Canada and the United States.

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Kevin Baumann, head of Rotex Energy, among the boilers for frac water.

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The Willmar facility has unique unloading stations. All unload stations are overhead and are connected through a series of piped bridges. This gives Rotex no buried lines. The system also has its own pumps to draw on the 8-inch truck unload lines, allowing for 12 cubic meters per minute of water truck unload, and enabling the company to give a guarantee of no waiting time.

The frac water component of the facility has the ability to load four trucks at the same time without using the trucks' pumps. There is also a receiving pad for the unloading of two vacuum trucks at a time as well as several vessels for waste handling and oil storage.

Rotex's holding pond, combined with a source well, is the first type of setup like that Baumann's seen in Canada, and he's been working in the waste business

New waste disposal

for many years and has owned or managed a few companies over that time.

"It's risky, very risky," Baumann confirms. "There's a saying in the waste business, 'build it and they will come.' Well, we're hoping they come." The proof he feels will be in Rotex's competitive service offerings, the facility's design and

its ability to maintain ongoing compliance.

"The proof is in the visit," he offers.

In total, the facility services include waste processing, disposal of production, drilling and completion products, source water, and tank washouts and steaming.

Dynamic Projects Ltd. and Supreme Oilfield Construction Ltd.

of Estevan are doing the installation work.

A visitor notices numerous piping bridges. With the exception of the natural gas entering the site, there are no buried pipes. "If we have a leak, it is easily detected without an impact," says Baumann.

The facility is considered a closed system with proper vapour re-

covery. "We at Rotex are proud of this facility" he says. "There is not a threaded pipe on this site and it is constructed properly."

"There are a lot of opportunities in this province," Baumann says. "Rotex will be a part of Saskatchewan and will be involved in supporting the areas it operates in."





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