

## Local Oil and Gas Veteran Welcomes Marcellus Shale Business Opportunities and Buzz

*Oil and gas industry veteran, Michael J. Zentz, told a group of investors today that he has never seen anything like the current phenomenon the media has coined the "natural gas gold rush" -- and that he sees Pennsylvania poised to prosper from the Marcellus Shale boom for decades to come. Estimates reveal that the formation holds approximately 350 trillion cubic feet of natural gas--enough to supply the gas needs for the entire United States for as many as 20 years, according to some experts.*

Gibsonia, PA ([PRWEB](#)) July 8, 2009 -- Michael J. Zentz, an oil and gas industry veteran of more than 25 years, told a group of investors today that he has never seen anything like the current phenomenon the media has coined the "natural gas gold rush" -- and that he sees the state poised to prosper from the Marcellus Shale boom for decades to come.

Zentz is the President of West Penn Energy Services LLC, a firm local to Pittsburgh that provides oilfield services, such as pipeline construction, frac tank rental, excavation, trucking, water hauling and drilling rig moves. "The Marcellus Shale may very well turn out to be a field of dreams for Pennsylvania, and a provider of natural gas to the nation for years to come. It could take close to 50 years just to drill all of the wells," says Zentz. An expert in oil and gas exploration in the Appalachian Basin, Zentz has drilled and completed thousands of wells and laid hundreds of miles of pipe in Pennsylvania. He currently serves on the Exploration and Production Committee of the Independent Oil & Gas Association (IOGA) of Pennsylvania.

According to geology.com, the Shale underlies much of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and West Virginia. Estimates say the formation holds approximately 350 trillion cubic feet of natural gas--some experts calculate that just 10% of that could supply the gas needs of the United States for two years. Until recently, the gas could not be exploited due to the depth of the rock unit; however newer drilling methods have been developed, including hydrofracing and horizontal drilling, which have made the Marcellus Shale a viable exploration target.

Pittsburgh newspapers have recently reported that Texas oil and gas companies are moving into Pennsylvania in droves. One Houston-based company executive called Pittsburgh the Marcellus company capital. Zentz has been anticipating the increased activity for a number of years, and stands ready to hire the workers and meet the heightening demand for oilfield services in the region. He opened West Penn Services in 2007 in order to keep his original company, Northeastern Energy Consulting Inc. (NECI) focused on petroleum engineering consulting work. "We've been working in Pennsylvania since 1992. We know the lay of the land and what it takes to drill here," says Zentz.

Zentz is the President of West Penn Energy Services and its affiliate Northeastern Energy Consulting Inc. He holds a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. Zentz has over twenty-five years of petroleum engineering experience in the Appalachian Basin. He is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and IOGA of Pennsylvania.

### About West Penn Energy Services and NECI

West Penn Energy Services LLC was formed in 2007 by Michael J. Zentz to provide field support services to the oil and gas industry. West Penn is an affiliate of Northeastern Energy Consulting Inc. (NECI), a petroleum

engineering consulting firm founded by Zentz in 1992. As NECI grew, it expanded upon its engineering services to include field services, such as well location and building, pipeline construction, welding, water hauling and trucking. Zentz formed West Penn Energy Services to take on these oilfield services and allow NECI to concentrate solely on petroleum engineering consulting. Both companies are located in western Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [www.westpennenergyservices.com](http://www.westpennenergyservices.com)

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