



EXPERIENCED IN SAFE URBAN NATURAL
GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

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For immediate release

HARDING ENERGY PARTNERS OPEN TO OPPORTUNITIES

(press ready headshots are available for download at:

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A group of industry experts today, (Friday, Aug. 8, 2008) officially announced the formation of Harding Energy Partners, LLC (HE Partners), offering a continuum of talents, experience and opportunities in all aspects of oil and natural gas exploration, production and marketing. The team offers investors and operators a combined 250 years of experience, the most recent of which is in the urban areas of the Barnett Shale in North Central Texas in a partnership with ExxonMobil.

The Partners in HE Partners are: Virtual Geoscience Consultants Inc. (Michael D. Burnaman); Steven J. Carter; Beacon Energy Partners (Scott C. Morgan, Lori J. Vining, Rick W. Wiley, and J. Ryan Leavy); Petrocasa Energy, Inc. and Pangaea Land Services, LLP (John Petropoulos); SDS-HC Oil & Gas LLC (Stephen D. Smith); Robert S. Taylor; Ferguson Crossing Pipeline Ltd. (J.W. Varner); R.W. (Rick) Harding, and Harding Company, led by Rick Harding.

These eight individuals, companies and partners have been together over the past three years, providing lease acquisition, municipal permitting services, gas marketing and the planning of related infrastructure in the counties of Tarrant, Johnson, Ellis, Dallas, Denton, Navarro, and Hill for Metroplex Barnett Shale LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil. Metroplex was the operator for DDJET Limited LLP, owned by Metroplex and Cinco County Barnett Shale, LLC.

Given the principals' collective experience, HE Partners is positioned to develop business opportunities under unique circumstances.

Harding Company

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Virtual Geoscience Consultants Inc. (Michael D. Burnaman)

Michael D. Burnaman has nearly four decades of experience in most geoscience and many engineering phases of the worldwide upstream petroleum industry in North America, Southeast Asia, the North Sea, West Africa, the former Soviet Union and the Middle East. He has a proven record of finding oil and gas in clastic/carbonate environments and in reservoir characterization, both onshore and offshore. Before joining the Harding Company in 2001, for 25 years, he held management and technical leadership positions with Mobil Oil Corporation and its affiliates. He also worked for Gulf Technical Services and Exxon Production Research during his university period.

As a geoscientist, Burnaman specializes in interpretation of 2D and 3D seismic surveys, E&P (exploration and production) opportunity evaluation through economics, prospect development and integration of Geoscience and Engineering data for oil and gas E&P in onshore and offshore deepwater environments.

Burnaman earned a Master of Science degree in geophysics from the University of Houston in 1974, with his thesis in potential fields. His Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in geology and a minor in chemistry, was also awarded by the University of Houston. A member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) since 1974, he is active on the Production and Development and Interpretation Committees. Burnaman has organized and chaired technical sessions at annual conventions of the SEG and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists as well as the Offshore Technology Conference. He has held leadership posts in the Indonesian Petroleum Association, Dallas Geophysical Society and Azerbaijan Society of Petroleum Engineers. He has authored and co-authored papers in SEG's Leading Edge and Geophysics, AAPG Monographs, the Indonesian Petroleum Association and the Azerbaijan Geophysical Society.

Steven J. Carter

Steven J. Carter, a Certified Public Accountant, provides HE Partners and Harding Company with financial expertise, management strength, and planning capabilities that are paramount to the company's growth due to the opportunities

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and successes of the Barnett Shale gas play. His early experience in the oil and gas industry came while he was a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation heading up a criminal investigation involving what was indicated to be the private sector's illegal accounting for oil and gas being moved via pipelines across the nation.

Carter's four-year career with the FBI included organized crime and RICO statute criminal investigations out of field offices in San Francisco, Tucson, and Houston. Upon leaving there, he worked with Carter Systems Consultants, Inc. of Dallas for 10 years, and then became CFO of Pro Set, Inc. (a trading card company based in Texas) from 1989 to 1993. At that time, he then became CFO of Met-Trim, LLC and Planet E Shop, Inc., a distribution and fulfillment, media planning and purchasing company. He joined Harding Company in 2002.

Having received an appointment and attending the U.S. Air Force Academy, Carter later earned a Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting) degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. He was a member of Beta Alpha Psi, the business honor student fraternity. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Texas Society of CPAs. Carter has been active in Rotary International and member of Kessler Park United Methodist Church, Dallas.

Beacon Energy Partners (Scott C. Morgan, Lori J. Vining, Rick W. Wiley, J. Ryan Leavy)

Scott C. Morgan – President, Beacon Energy Partners

Morgan has over 35 years of experience in the oil and gas arena. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Economics, and Accounting from the University of Missouri. He began his career with Mobil Oil Corporation in Dallas in 1971, spending a number of years in the crude oil, gas, joint venture, gas plant, and auditing departments. In 1979, he became Vice President of Geo-Tech Petroleum, Inc. where his responsibilities included the accounting, division order and gas marketing departments. He and two associates founded Beacon Petroleum Management, Inc. in 1992 as an exploration, production, and operations company. Beacon owned, managed, and/or operated over 80 properties in eight states in the continental United States. As the company continued to grow, it entered the consulting arena to like

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companies, attorney firms, and trusts that participated in the oil and gas industry. Presently, and in addition, the company focuses on oil and gas marketing and acquisition and/or construction of mid-stream assets. Beacon has enjoyed vigorous growth and has doubled its size each year for the last three years. Morgan is currently overseeing Beacon's greatest growth rate in its history.

Lori J. Vining – Vice President of Supply, Beacon Energy Partners

Beacon acquired 25 years of experience when Vining came on board as the Vice President of Supply. Production operations, gas control from wellhead to burner-tip, contract administration and management form the core of her experience. She began her career in the production field office of Mapco Production Company, which later became CNG Producing Company. While at Mapco/CNG, she managed the production office in Ardmore, OK and later was promoted and moved to the Tulsa office where she supervised all the operating reports, allocation reports, federal and state reports. She also coordinated and interfaced with engineering, land, and marketing departments. Vining moved on to Mobil Oil Corporation in Healdton, OK where she managed the data input group for their sub-surface maintenance program and monthly production. She then moved into gas marketing as contract administrator for Pacific Enterprises Oil Company in Dallas followed by a similar position with Gas Supply Analyst for Consolidated Fuel Corporation. In June 1990, she added gas control to her expertise, scheduling natural gas for 50 pipelines and local distribution companies. In 1994, she began working for Aurora Natural Gas where she managed the operations department. Vining currently manages \$60M annually of energy products for Beacon clients.

Rick W. Wiley - Vice President and Treasurer, Beacon Energy Partners

Wiley has been involved in the natural gas industry for 20 years, designing and integrating business control systems. Since 1987, he has been an accountant, gas systems developer and technologies manager for Consolidated Fuel Corporation, Sunrise Energy Services, Enserch and Am Gas. Rick previously served five years with ANG Holdings, LLC where he held various positions including Vice President of Information Technologies, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer. Rick is presently responsible for treasury, finance and banking for Beacon and its three subsidiaries consisting of working interest
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ownerships, midstream assets and real estate holdings. Wiley received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Control Systems in 1987 from the University of North Texas.

J. Ryan Leavy - Vice President of Marketing, Beacon Energy Partners

Leavy brings to Beacon 11 years of experience in the natural gas industry. Ryan has held various positions from tax accountant to gas controller to trader. His experience allows for a diverse understanding of the industry. His accounting experience includes tax accounting, pricing analyst, volume analyst which earned him the title of Manager of Transactional Accounting while he was with Aurora Natural Gas. He then moved into the operations arena and began trading gas in the mid-continent area and gained gas control experience on over 20 inter-state and intra-state pipelines. Under Ryan's supervision, Beacon's marketing revenue has grown from \$230K in 2001 to \$30.3M in 2007.

Petrocasa Energy, Inc. and Pangaea Land Services, LLP. (John Petropoulos)

John Petropoulos has more than two decades of experience in all aspects of prospecting, drilling and producing natural gas in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma. He is the founder of two high-profile, proactive companies, Petrocasa Energy, Inc. and Pangaea Land Services, LLP, with over 150 Landmen and offices located in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Marshall, TX as well as in Shreveport, LA.

Most recently, he is responsible for Harding leasing and land acquisition programs in surface sensitive and highly competitive, urban and rural extensions of the Barnett Shale natural gas play in North Central Texas. He has successfully administered joint operating agreements, exploration concessions, oil and gas sales contracts, pipeline and processing agreements, private financing, acquisitions, divestitures, and outside investor sales materials.

He is also responsible for the design and negotiation of surface use and access agreements for roads and pipelines, well placement, and well spacing in subdivisions in urban areas. Petropoulos was instrumental in pioneering the

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early development of the Barnett Shale in Tarrant, Parker, Ellis and Dallas Counties.

Petropoulos is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Landmen; Fort Worth Landman Association; Geological Societies of Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston; American Association of Petroleum Geologists and Society of Petroleum Engineers.

SDS-HC Oil & Gas LLC (Stephen D. Smith)

A native of Kermit Texas, Stephen D. Smith (Steve) came to Harding Company in 2005 as Vice President of Operations, bringing with him more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry in seven states as well as in the countries of Mexico, Algeria and Tunisia as well as in North Africa. His areas of expertise include all drilling technologies, High Pressure, High Temperatures (HPHT), Heavy mud weights with Oil Base Mud systems, under-balanced and mud-cap drilling, Multi-lateral drilling and completions, workovers, re-completions, well logging and interpretation with reservoir simulation and fracture designs as well as multiple computer applications. He has managed the successful drilling and completion operations of wells with depths of up to 30,000 feet both onshore and offshore.

He is a member of the third generation of his family to have been employed by Sid Richardson and the Fort Worth, TX Bass family, where he spent more than eight years working as an Assistant Drilling Engineer in its West Texas Division Office in Midland.

Smith's professional memberships include the Fort Worth Petroleum Club, Fort Worth Society of Petroleum Engineers, Petroleum Engineers Club and American Association for Drilling Engineers. He is also very active in his church, Boy Scouts of America and coaching multiple sports with his son.

Currently President of STEKAT Resources, LTD and SDS Joint Ventures, he has held key posts with other companies, such as Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, First Calgary Petroleum, Aspect Oil and Gas and Clayton Williams. His training has included technical and professional courses at various colleges and universities in the USA and Europe.

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Robert S. Taylor

Robert Taylor is an experienced international negotiator with more than 25 years of experience specializing in new business development. He has been responsible for closing numerous oil and gas contracts exceeding a total value of \$1 billion with many foreign governments and international oil companies. From 1979 through 2000, Taylor held key positions with Mobil Oil Corporation in Texas, Colorado and the Republic of Singapore. In 2000, he became an independent consultant, performing due diligence and contract negotiations for various companies such as Pacific Energy Company, Schlumberger Technology Corporation, Viking Resources, and, most recently, Harding Company.

His vast experience includes supervising Mobil's landmen and field brokers in the Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain regions. He has also served as executive vice president of a multi-county title insurance company. Having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Colorado, Taylor has given and participated in numerous foreign government industry seminars (Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Vietnam) and received his mediation certification from the University of North Texas.

Taylor is a member of the American Association of Professional Landmen and a Mediator, Tarrant County Dispute Resolution Center.

Ferguson Crossing Pipeline Ltd. (J.W. Varner)

J.W. Varner is a senior professional in operations and engineering with over 34 years of experience in transmission, midstream gathering, treating and processing, acquisitions and divestitures, capital budgeting, contract negotiations and litigation settlement. Since 2003, Varner has provided consulting services and invested in oil and gas related activities through Ferguson Crossing Pipeline Ltd, a partnership owned and controlled by him and his wife, Trudy.

From 1988 through 2003, he held key positions with Devon Energy, with its midstream division being the former Mitchell Gas Services L.P. In these roles, he directed activities of 500 employees and contractors for large intrastate

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gathering, processing and transmission operations that included 10,000 miles of pipeline, 500,000 horsepower in compression, and 12 processing plants.

Earlier in his career, for 14 years Varner worked with United Texas Transmission Company of Houston, TX and managed the Laredo to Katy, TX, 30-inch pipeline expansion that was built to move up to 750 MMCFD of volumes to the Houston market place. Varner earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas and a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Varner served 15 years as a board member of the Association of Texas Intrastate Natural Gas Pipelines (recently renamed The Pipeline Association). He also served on the Board of the Gas Processors Association and is a past chairman of the Transmission Committee of the Southern Gas Association.

R.W. (Rick) Harding

R. W. (Rick) Harding, president of the independent oil and natural gas exploration company since 1983, works with his father, the family patriarch, who started Harding Brothers Oil and Gas, Inc., now known as Harding Company, in 1953. As CEO of the family-owned business, he is responsible for all operations and company growth. Harding works along side of the members of his professional team on a daily basis and fosters an esprit de' corps that results in success, strong work ethic, honesty and unblemished safety record.

Long before international oil companies made their decisions to enter the Barnett Shale, Harding was directing a drilling program in multiple counties in the North Central and West Texas regions. His emphasis has always been for the company to develop and utilize new technologies, including seismic for horizontal drilling. A longtime member of the North Texas Oil and Gas Association (now the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers), Harding has served on its Natural Gas Committee and worked to bring fairness to natural gas pricing for the producer. He has also been involved in bringing new natural gas pipeline markets to the Barnett Shale area which has resulted in stimulating competition.

Born and raised in Dallas, TX, Harding graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1975. He first began

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working in the oil fields as a laborer during the summer at age 16. He also has an accomplished career in sales, having managed men’s shoe stores in two regional malls. For several years, before taking the reigns as Harding president, he was corporate sales manager for Allied Van Lines in Dallas. Family is important to him, and he proudly includes his wife Renee and two children, Ann and Rich, in many aspects of the Harding Company business. A day rarely goes by when he and his father, now chairman of the board, don’t discuss business and together plan for the company’s continued growth and prosperity.

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