From the Director

The Stripper Well Consortium (SWC) is a newly established consortium, which is focused on developing, demonstrating, and commercializing technologies that will improve the production performance of the nation’s natural gas and petroleum stripper wells. In an effort to stimulate and extend stripper well production, the Strategic Center for Natural Gas, and the National Petroleum Technology Office will provide the consortium $3M over the next three years to co-fund projects that are in support of SWC’s focus. The Energy Institute, within the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at Penn State’s University Park campus, is responsible for the overall management of the consortium.

The SWC is in its infancy. On January 29, 2001 the consortium held its inaugural meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The meeting attracted 58 attendees from 11 states and Canada. The attendees were comprised of a diverse mix of producers, service companies, industry consultants, independent energy research and development companies, trade organizations, funding agencies, and academia. The inaugural meeting was used to delineate research focus areas for the consortium and to elect to the Executive Council. Reservoir remediation and characterization, well bore cleanup, and surface systems optimization were identified by the membership as the three program areas that the consortium will focus on. SWC membership was comprised of 31 full members at the time of the January 29 meeting. Seven members were elected to the Executive Council, which will serve as the governing body for the consortium. Request-for-proposals were issued to the consortium members on February 15. Proposals require a minimum of 30% cost share and are due by March 22, 2001. These proposals will be provided to the Executive Council for their review. On April 9-10, the membership will convene a meeting at the Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania where the proposed research will be presented to the membership. On April 10, the Executive Council will select programs for SWC funding.

The SWC offers the nation's stripper well industry a unique opportunity to identify, discuss and propose solutions to production-related issues. The success of the consortium is a shared responsibility. Active industrial participation is vital if the consortium is to succeed. By pooling limited human and financial resources, the membership can work together to solve production issues that may be prohibitively costly for individual companies to address. As the SWC Director, I encourage the natural gas and petroleum industry to actively participate in this consortium. This is a unique opportunity that will not succeed without industry leadership and involvement.

Please take a few minutes to review this newsletter so that you are up-to-date on the SWC activities. Feel free to send me an email at swc@ems.psu.edu if you have any comments or suggestions on how the SWC may better serve you.

Spring Meeting: April 9-10, 2001

The SWC will be hosting its spring meeting at the Toftrees Resort and Conference Center located near State College, Pennsylvania. Toftrees is located within five minutes from State College and the University Park airport. A complimentary airport shuttle service is available from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Toftrees has offered the consortium a special room rate of $85/night. Lodging availability is limited; therefore, it is important that members reserve their room(s) as soon as possible. The SWC room rate will expire on March 8. You can reserve your lodging by calling (800) 252-3551.

The SWC spring meeting will be devoted to listening and reviewing the membership’s proposed projects. Members should plan on a 1 1/2 day meeting starting on April 9 at 9:00 a.m. and ending on April 10. Meeting registration will be held on April 9 from 8:00-9:00 a.m.. The finalized agenda will be drafted upon receipt of the proposals, which are due March 22. After the proposals have been received, the final agenda will be posted to the SWC web site no later than March 26. Members that submit proposals for funding will be giving a 15-20 minute presentation at the meeting. The membership will be provided approximately 5 minutes after each presentation for a question and answer session. On the April 10, the Executive Council will convene and select proposed projects for funding.
How Does SWC Operate?

The SWC was established on September 30, 2000 through a Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and The Pennsylvania State University. Under this Agreement, Penn State has been charged with establishment and management of a consortium, which is focused on improving the production performance of domestic natural gas and petroleum stripper wells.

**Organizational structure.** Penn State has organized the SWC to be industry driven. Under this model, companies pay a modest membership fee to join and participate in the consortium. The SWC has a two-tier, full and affiliate membership structure. Full membership is reserved for companies and universities, which are engaged in U.S. natural gas and petroleum industries. Affiliate membership is reserved for trade agencies and state organizations. The SWC has a Constitution and Bylaws, which outline the governing principles of the consortium. Each member company appoints one representative to a Technical Advisory Committee. The Technical Advisory Committee is responsible for steering the technical direction of the consortium and is responsible for electing a seven-member Executive Council. The Executive Council is responsible for selecting proposed research for funding.

**Funding Opportunities.** The consortium will solicit research proposals from full members on an annual basis. In 2001, the consortium will provide approximately $800K to co-fund projects in the areas of: 1) reservoir remediation, characterization, and operations; 2) well-bore clean up; and 3) surface and collection optimization. Proposals require a minimum of 30% cost share and are submitted in accordance with the proposal guidelines in the SWC’s request-for-proposals solicitation. Proposals for 2001 are due by 5 p.m. on March 22. On April 9-10, members that have requested funding will provide a brief presentation to the SWC membership. After reviewing and listening to the proposed projects the Executive Council will select projects for funding.

**Networking/Technology Transfer Opportunities.** The SWC will host a minimum of two meetings per year. A spring meeting will be dedicated to the review and funding of new proposals and a fall meeting will be dedicated to reviewing the status of the funded programs. Meetings will be structured to provide the membership with ample networking opportunities. Full members receive quarterly and final technical reports on each SWC funded project.

**More Information.** More information can be obtained online at the SWC web site. The web site provides an overview of the consortium activities, downloadable membership application forms, information on upcoming meetings, and guidelines in which members can submit proposals. Take a minute to browse the site and use it to track the activities of the consortium.

Or contact:

Mr. Joel L. Morrison, SWC Director (814-865-4802)
Mr. Gary Covatch, Project Manager, Strategic Center for Natural Gas (304-285-4589)
Mr. Dan Ferguson, Project Manager, National Petroleum and Technology Office (918-699-2047)
Executive Council Formed

One of the major activities of the SWC inaugural meeting was the election of the Executive Council. Seventeen members were nominated by the Technical Advisory Committee to serve on the Executive Council. Full members then voted for seven members to serve on the Council. In addition to these seven elected members, the Executive Council also has three standing, non-voting appointees.

It is important that the SWC membership interacts with the members of the Executive Council. Let your voice be heard. Representatives of the Executive Council will be rotated on an annual basis. In addition, as the membership grows, the Executive Council may be expanded to nine elected positions. Please take some time to introduce yourself to the following Executive Council members:

Elected Council Members (voting)
One Year Term (2001)

Paul Herzing  EOG Resources
John Holko  Lenape Resources
John Papso  Cabot Oil & Gas

Two Year Term (2001-2002)

David Burnett  Texas A&M
Bob Metzgar  North Penn Pipe & Supply
Bob Watson  Penn State
Dave Wozniak  Belden & Blake

Standing Council Members (non-voting)

Gary Covatch  NETL, Strategic Center for Natural Gas
Dan Ferguson  NETL, National Petroleum Technology Office
Joel Morrison  Penn State University, SWC Director

Inaugural Meeting Participants

Advanced Resources International  Virginia
Appalachian Well Services  Pennsylvania
Belden & Blake  Ohio
BJ Services  Pennsylvania
C-FER Technologies  Canada
Cabot Oil & Gas Corp.  West Virginia
Colorado School of Mines  Colorado
EOG Resources, Inc.  Texas
Equitable Production Company  West Virginia
Gas Duct Technology LLC  California
GMT/LATA Group  Oklahoma
Great Lakes Energy Partners, L.L.C.  Pennsylvania
Hart Resource Technologies, Inc.  Pennsylvania
I.L. Geer & Sons  Pennsylvania
Independent Oil Gas Association of Pennsylvania  Pennsylvania
Independent Oil Gas Association of West Virginia  West Virginia
James Engineering, Inc.  Ohio
Lenape Resources, Inc.  New York
Maurer Engineering  Texas
Moody & Associates, Inc.  Pennsylvania
National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation  Pennsylvania
National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)  Oklahoma
National Petroleum Technology Office  West Virginia
Strategic Center for Natural Gas  New York
New York State Electric & Gas Corp.  Pennsylvania
North Penn Pipe & Supply  Pennsylvania
New York State Energy Research Development Authority  New York
Oklahoma Marginal Well Commission  Oklahoma
Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Association  Pennsylvania
Penneco Oil Co., Inc.  Pennsylvania
Petroleum Technology Transfer Council  Oklahoma
Phillips Production Co.  Pennsylvania
Plumtree, Inc. LLC  New York
RealTimeZone  New Mexico
Rocky Mountain Oil Test Center  Wyoming
S.W. Jack Drilling Company  Pennsylvania
Schlumberger-Holditch / Reservoir Technologies  Pennsylvania
Snyder Brothers, Inc.  Pennsylvania
Texas A&M University  Texas
The Pennsylvania State University  Pennsylvania
Universal Well Services, Inc.  Pennsylvania
West Virginia University  West Virginia
Become a SWC Member Now

By pooling financial and human resources and leveraging them with external sources, full members in the SWC can develop and support initiatives that would be cost prohibitive to most companies. The annual membership fee is $1,000. Membership in SWC has several immediate benefits. These benefits include:

• Members can steer research into areas that are of strategic importance to their companies
• Members can, individually or jointly, submit proposals for SWC co-funding
• Members gain access to low-cost technology transfer

To obtain more information on how you can become a SWC member, you can complete and remit the following application form or visit the SWC web site to download your membership request.

SWC Membership

Fax to: Joel Morrison (814) 863-7432

☐ I am interested in learning more about SWC. Please have a representative contact me.
☐ I am interested in being a SWC member. Please send me an application form.
   ☐ Full membership
   ☐ Affiliate membership

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