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Keith Grimes, CEO

Hi again everyone,

A couple of quick points before I get out of here for a short break!

Well, we are fully into the dog-days of summer in Houston and the rest of Texas and Louisiana. The only problem is that the dog-days hit us about 1 ½ months early this year! Let's all be cognizant of the risks of the extreme heat both at work and at play. There is not only a thermal issue, in the cities there is also an air pollution issue that can be dangerous.

As far as the business- although we are in a very low period in the E&P industry, we did see in June that there are signs of stabilization starting to appear in some areas. Our rig counts started to flatten out from their death spiral and we heard from several operators that new or delayed projects were on the horizon, albeit not actually here as yet. Given the choice, at this stage I would rather be optimistic than pessimistic mainly because I have had to be too much of the latter in the last few months! But, let's see what happens and with some luck we'll be in an uptrend before the end of the year.

Thanks for taking the time to read the newsletter.

Take care,

## New Technologies – Water?

It has rained so little this summer in Houston that I would guess all of us have a new appreciation for how valuable water really is.

### Did you know:

97% of the world's water is salt water and 2.5% is fresh but frozen, locked up in Antarctica, the Arctic and glaciers.

The world's heaviest average rain fall (about 430 inches) occurs in Cherrapunji, India, where as much as 87 feet of rain has fallen in one year.

The wettest state in the United States is Louisiana, with annual rainfall of 56 inches.

Texas water is divided into surface water -- water held in streams, rivers and reservoirs -- and groundwater, whether in deep underground aquifers or shallow local aquifers.

Texas has only one natural lake-Caddo Lake in East Texas. The other 6,700 lakes are reservoirs that have been constructed by humans.

Houston has gradually switched its water supply from groundwater sources to surface water sources because of subsidence problems-the ground is actually sinking as water is pumped out.

Lake Travis' water level has dropped 16.3 feet since May 1, 2009 (a loss of 2.4 BILLION Barrels).

**"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."**

Benjamin Franklin

**"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."**

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## Just Something Fun: Claude Thorp

### Teaching Earth Science Teachers to Teach Energy

Last week, I saw first hand how dedicated elementary and middle school teachers are. I also saw how little most of them really understood our industry. In all fairness, most teachers don't have any detailed understanding of most industries. This is why it's important for each of us to share information about the oil and gas industry with others, whenever we can.

Through a \$24,000 annual donation and over 200 total hours of volunteer time from the [Gulf Coast Section](#) of the SPE, the [Environmental Institute of Houston \(EIH\)](#) trains approximately 60 earth science teachers during 2 one week sessions with a primary goal to increase scientific and environmental literacy, especially in the geosciences area of the energy industry as a means to further generate student interest. In addition, the training strives to provide new and innovative approaches to teaching geosciences, including promotion of science-related career opportunities.

Their training was focused on the following areas:

- Paleontology, historical geology, subsidence, and environmental geology.
- Volcano and earthquake locations, plate movements and boundaries, mountain ranges, continental drift through time with coordinating data for support, fault types, and convection currents.
- Sources of Energy: Fossil fuels but also alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear, etc.
- Energy and energy related careers in Earth Science.
- Visits to the [Weiss Energy Hall](#) at the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Bureau of Economic Geology's [Core Research Facility](#).

These 60 teachers will mentor other teachers in their schools, who in turn, will share this information with hundreds of young students over the next few years. Hopefully, one day we will see several of those young students on drilling rigs, interpreting seismic, or finding an environmental solution to treating produced water.

**"...how dedicated elementary and middle school teachers are."**

## Events of Interest

SIPES Fall 2009  
Continuing Education  
Seminar

Friday, Sept. 18  
Houston, TX

[More Information](#)

2009 Summer NAPE  
August 27 – 28  
Houston, TX

[More Information](#)

Hamilton's wide range of service offerings come from the combination of three companies:

**Hamilton Engineering Inc.** (Houston, TX), founded in 1976 by Lacy Hamilton, specializes in providing consultants for the planning and supervision of petroleum related drilling, completion, and well workovers in nearly every oil producing state in the United States and over twenty foreign countries.

**Petroleum Engineers Inc.** (Lafayette, LA & Houston, TX), founded in 1970 by Don E. Claxton, Alvin Bellaire, Jr. and C. F. "Skip" Kimball III, specializes in providing the upstream industry with drilling and completion project management services as well as professional engineers, well site supervisors and technical services at a moments notice, worldwide.

**Atlantis E&P Services Inc.** (Houston, TX), founded in 2001 by Terry Clark, specializes in providing experienced reservoir and geoscience consultants with backgrounds in conventional and unconventional reservoirs in both domestic and international settings.

In addition to the services provided by these three companies, our companies have recently added drilling fluids management, IT, real-time data and full-time placement services.

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