

Speaker to Discuss “Midstream” Facilities Needed to Support Marcellus Gas Production

Besides drilling and pipeline infrastructure, gathering, compression, processing and fractionation facilities—or midstream facilities—are needed to support Marcellus Shale natural gas production, says Randy Nickerson of MarkWest Energy Partners, the largest natural gas processor in Appalachia.

“Wherever you find industry representatives discussing the development of the Marcellus field, the conversation inevitably includes the tremendous need for new midstream facilities to gather, compress and, in many cases, process the gas prior to delivering it into the large interstate gas pipeline systems,” says Nickerson, senior vice president and chief commercial officer.

Nickerson will discuss these midstream facilities at 4 p.m., Monday, April 13 in a talk, “Moving Marcellus Production to the Marketplace.”

Open to the public, the talk is scheduled for 4 p.m. in 112 Walker. The presentation also will be available online at

http://www.eesi.psu.edu/news_events/EarthtalksSpring09.shtml.

Natural gas liquids recovered from the gas that is processed also require fractionation, storage and marketing infrastructure. The largest fractionator in Appalachia, MarkWest plans to install new fractionation facilities in Pennsylvania.

Nickerson joined MarkWest Hydrocarbon in July 1995 and has served in various capacities including senior vice president, corporate development and vice president and general manager of the Appalachia Business Unit. In October 2006, he was also appointed chief commercial officer of the general partner of MarkWest Energy Partners.

Nickerson’s talk is part of the 2009 EarthTalks Spring Colloquium Series on “The Marcellus Shale Play: Boon or Burden?” that is sponsored by the Penn State Earth and Environmental Systems Institute (EESI), the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences (EMS), the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Environment and Natural Resources Institute, the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment (PSIEE), the EMS Energy Institute and the John A. Dutton e-Education Institute.