

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Anadarko Opens Workforce Housing Facility in Mentone

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Oil and gas companies have cut billions in spending as crude prices have fallen to 13-year lows. But they are willing to invest in their employees.

Anadarko Petroleum, for example, has just opened a workforce housing lodge in Mentone to serve 200 Anadarko employees and contractors. A ceremony to open the 77,180-square-foot facility was held at 991 County Road 300 in Mentone earlier this week.

The facility will serve the company's Delaware Basin operation, according to John Christiansen, vice president, corporate communications.

"The Delaware Basin is an exciting part of our U.S. onshore portfolio. We have about 600,000 gross acres in the most prospective area of the Delaware Basin, estimated recoverable resources of more than 1 billion barrels of oil equivalent, and the enabling infrastructure in place to make this area a strategic source of future growth," he said in an email. "The new facility provides quality accommodations for our current number of employees and contractors, and we have the flexibility to expand in an improved commodity-price environment to support potential growth in future years.

"Additionally, we expect this new facility to enhance safety by reducing truck traffic and miles traveled, as well as helping to ensure our folks are well-fed and rested," Christiansen said.

Anadarko's facility was built by and is owned and managed by Target Logistics, although it will be exclusive to Anadarko and its contractors.

Randy Pruett, spokesman for Target Logistics, acknowledged the workforce housing industry has been impacted by the oil industry downturn.

"There's no doubt that the decline in the oil prices has had a profound effect on everyone in the energy business, particularly in the Bakken," he told the Reporter-Telegram.

"With that said, the Target Logistics Pecos Lodge is thriving and remains at almost 100 percent capacity. The trend I see most is raising the bar on workforce housing. More than ever, it's about improving the quality, creating efficiencies and optimizing the value of people — addressing the 'other 12 hours' when workers are off-duty — by offering top-quality housing resulting in increased productivity, reduced turnover, enhanced morale and improved safety. Crew camps are a long-term, full-service solution that addresses the short-term needs of customers' rotational workforces."



An oil rig running on Anadarko's Raybank Well is shown Thursday, June 2, 2011, near the west Texas town of Mentone, about 90 miles west of Midland. (Brett Coomer / Houston Chronicle)