

Commissioners Court Approves Purchase of Natural Gas Powered Truck



In October 2012 Harrison County Commissioners Court approved the purchase of a compressed natural gas powered 13-yard Peterbilt dump truck for its road and bridge fleet.



Harrison County Judge Hugh Taylor

"This will be our first purchase of a compressed natural gas vehicle," reported Harrison County Judge Hugh Taylor. "We reduced our request from three (trucks) to one dump truck to try to get our feet wet, to kind of get involved as one of the first local governments to do so to get

accustomed to the use of this fuel in this type of vehicle.

"I'm very excited about Harrison County being one of the first in North-east Texas to pursue this option for our fleet," Taylor continued, "and we're taking small steps now because we want to learn how to use the vehicle, how to facilitate the fueling, how we will work on the vehicle, how the guys run the vehicle, (and find out) what cost savings we're realizing with the vehicle."

Taylor said the dump truck, which will cost \$154,847.82, is larger than what they are used to. The court is especially excited because the facility that they will use to fuel the vehicle will be a local facility.



Harrison County plans to use the Peake Fuel Solutions filling station in Marshall to fuel its Peterbilt dump truck, which will run on compressed natural gas.

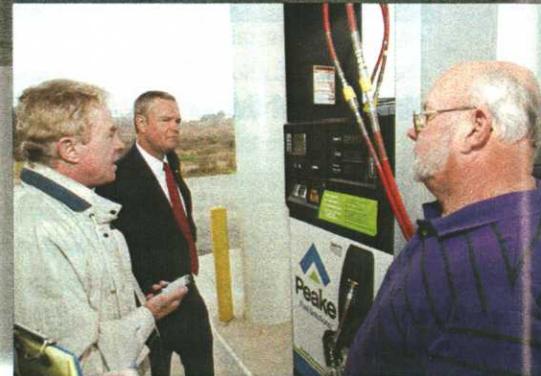
"We're purchasing a vehicle that's using a local fuel; we're purchasing a vehicle that will use less fuel, has more power, and is cheaper to run; also, at a bigger capacity, we can operate it with one man as opposed to two required personnel it takes to do the same job using two of our small trucks," Taylor said of the perks.

"I personally believe it will be beneficial to the county, to the road and bridge department, and to the taxpayers, especially," Taylor emphasized.

The judge advised that the county will not purchase the vehicle, however, until the fueling facility is fully operational, which was expected in late 2012.

"It's very close to our main base operation for road and bridge," said Taylor.

The judge has worked on converting to this type of vehicle since February 2011, and said he is thrilled to see it



From left: Harrison County Engineer John Paul Jones, County Judge Hugh Taylor, and Mike Woodfin of NOMAC discuss a compressed natural gas dispenser at a fueling station in Marshall.

possibly come to fruition for the county.

"I know all the commissioners... have been supportive and have encouraged the road and bridge engineer and myself to pursue this option," Taylor reiterated. "I think it's conservative to start small and see how things go. I can't wait for the grand opening of the fueling station and see how we will fuel the new truck."

Taylor said if it is effective, Harrison County may possibly purchase additional compressed natural gas vehicles. ★

- By Robin Y. Richardson,
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