

Midlander seeks Permian Basin midstream assets to acquire

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From a home office in Greenwood -- when he's not at company offices in Houston, Tulsa or Gillette, Wyo. -- Tim Bolding oversees the operations of company-owned midstream assets primarily in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming.

Bolding, president and chief operating officer of Clear Creek Energy Services, said he hopes to bring Clear Creek's operations to the Permian Basin -- not only expanding Clear Creek's office in Midland but acquiring midstream assets locally.

"This is my home," he said.

To that end, the company has just completed equity funding arrangements with Energy Spectrum Partners IV LP, a \$350 million Dallas-based private equity fund focused on the midstream oil and gas industry. The arrangement, Bolding said, gives Clear Creek access to \$200 million to invest in developing new or existing natural gas gathering and treating midstream assets in new field development projects in the Powder River Basin, Rocky Mountain region at large and other domestic locations, including the Permian Basin.

"We want to invest money in Permian Basin midstream assets," he said, noting that the company has several deals pending. "I'm looking for producers in the Permian Basin with pipelines who want me to monetize that asset. I buy pipelines and charge the operator a service fee. I'm looking for Permian Basin operators who need a new pipeline; we'll use our expertise to build them a pipeline."

His customers, Bolding explained, are producers whose core skill sets are the drill bit "and they want to invest in the drill bit. So we invest in low pressure and high pressure transportation pipelines, build pipelines and treat and transport gas."

In the Powder River Basin, he continued, "we monetize our customers' assets -- we purchase low pressure, high pressure and midstream pipelines from producers and that puts dollars in their drill bits."

Clear Creek's core assets are in Wyoming because, when the company was founded in 1999, that's where it was able to buy assets.

"I worked for Texaco, and I went to Wyoming for Texaco, did research and built the first pipeline in Gillette, Campbell County," Bolding explained.

When he left Texaco, he founded Clear Creek Natural Gas Gathering LLC. In 2003 he and his partners renamed the company Clear Creek Natural Gas LLC and in July of this year, the partners brought in equity partners and renamed the company Clear Creek Energy Services LLC. Fred Pace serves as chief executive officer and Mark Bolding is executive vice president and corporate secretary.

"We are a privately-held company with quite a few assets," Bolding noted.

Pace, in a release announcing the funding commitment, said it is part of a strategic corporate plan to grow Clear Creek to an asset base exceeding \$150 to \$200 million.