

# Oklahoma company buys plot at Starpointe

12/16/2011 3:33 AM

An El Reno, Okla., firm that bills itself as "the mud-gas pressure control experts" hopes to be operating out of a new location in the Starpointe business park near Burgettstown by mid-2012.

Mathena Inc. is an oil and natural gas service company that supplies surface control equipment for the drilling and completion phases of energy production.

Washington County commissioners on Thursday approved the sale of a 3.1-acre lot in Starpointe, Hanover Township, to Mathena, which plans to construct a regional maintenance and service facility.

"It's going to be our main hub there," Greg Cantrell, director of operations for Mathena, said of the proposed Starpointe development.

Mathena chose Starpointe because of its access to Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. It already has locations in Towanda, Bradford County, and Jane Lew, W.Va., which will serve as a satellite for the Starpointe operation.

The purchase price for the pad-ready parcel is \$175,000. Closing on the property will take place in late January or early February, with construction beginning in March once the firm receives appropriate building permits.

Mathena is now renting a location nearby where 10 to 15 maintenance or service technicians and a location supervisor have been working.

Once Mathena moves to Starpointe, there is a potential that the size of the work force will double, said Dan Reitz, director of the Washington County Council on Economic Development.

Mathena provides pressure control at drilling locations, helping bring residual gas pockets to the surface using a hydraulic choke. Technicians then recapture drilling fluid.

"Not fracking fluid," Cantrell said. "It's different. There will be no residual waste or any type of haul-off from our equipment at that location."

Mathena plans a wash bay with a remediation system that will allow it to reuse its own water.

Mathena employs about 150.

"We're all over the country," Cantrell said. "In shale plays or traditional plays."

After Reitz explained the project Thursday morning, Commissioner Diana Irey Vaughan emphasized Washington County was able to attract Mathena because of its low property taxes.

Four of Starpointe's 12 pad-ready lots are still available. When completed, the Starpointe development will include 1,153 acres. Copyright Observer Publishing Co.