

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2008

**FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY DELIVERS SIGHTS AND SOUNDS
OF ENERGY STORY TO COMMUNITY THROUGH STATE-OF-THE-ART GALLERY**

**Entertaining, educational energy gallery will appeal to the senses
through spectacular, immersive effects**

When the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History opens the doors of its new 125,000-square-foot building in the fall of 2009, its collection of new, innovative galleries will include an energy gallery that's designed to give Museum guests more than a sense of the story of energy. The cutting-edge, 10,000-square-foot gallery will give guests *every* sense of the energy story.

Through state-of-the-art technologies and real-world experiences, school children and guests of all ages will not only see, but also hear, feel – even smell – the story of energy. The gallery, conceived through a collaboration of top scholars, scientists, leading exhibit and special effects designers, will use hands-on activities, stunning visuals, and real tools of the energy industry to create a journey from the “Big Bang” – the first energy, to the modern exploration and production technologies used today, and into the future, with a look at the energy challenges ahead.

Deep community support for concept

Long before the gallery opens to the public, the concept for the energy story has already received extensive support. Funding for the gallery has been made possible through the Museum's comprehensive \$75 million capital campaign, chaired by Fort Worth philanthropists Stacie and David McDavid and a team of community leaders, including Charlie Moncrief, who has overseen fund raising efforts related to the energy gallery project.

XTO Energy Inc. will be recognized as the lead donor for the Museum's new energy gallery, and Devon Energy Corporation will be recognized as the lead donor for a state-of-the-art theater inside the gallery. Numerous other donors have also made significant contributions to date which will be recognized in association with the gallery, including Burnett Oil Co., Inc.; The Discovery Fund; Lowe Foundation; T. J. Brown and C. A. Lupton Foundation; Chesapeake Energy Corporation; Chief Oil & Gas; EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc.; Exxon Mobil Corporation; Wm. A. and Elizabeth B. Moncrief Foundation; Jane Rector; Charlotte and Jim Finley; Range Resources Corporation; Encore Acquisition Company; Marshall R. Young Oil Co.; Collins and Young, L.L.C; Rex and Renda Tillerson; EOG Resources, Inc.; and Charlie and Kit Moncrief.

“Now, more than ever, the full spectrum of energy has emerged in our lives – where it is, how we use it, and its expanding future,” says Bob R. Simpson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of XTO Energy Inc. “As a home-grown Fort Worth company, we are thrilled to help establish this innovative approach to such an important story. We’re confident it will be a great opportunity for guests of all ages to learn about energy and our industry and be inspired by the possibilities.”

Extraordinary learning environment

“This Museum has always been committed to extraordinary learning environments – and this gallery is truly extraordinary,” says Museum President Van A. Romans. “Our guests will learn about energy by being immersed in the story through a dynamic array of math- and science-based learning experiences. It’s an incredible way to gain a deep understanding of a story that is continuing to unfold right here and right now in North Texas.”

Energy’s impact on Texas’s culture and its economy – and the role of North Texas’ energy industry on the world – has prompted the Museum to explore the possibility of an energy gallery in the past. But Romans says the recent developments related to exploration of the Barnett Shale, coupled with the nation’s intense focus on energy issues, made the gallery an obvious direction for the new facility.

“The world is watching what’s happening right here with the Barnett Shale,” Romans says, “and that makes the Barnett Shale a timely and effective learning opportunity. This gallery will draw upon the story of the Barnett Shale to tell an even broader story of innovation in today’s energy industry and as an illustration of our region’s continued importance in the landscape of energy sources nationally.”

A visit to the gallery

Guests will begin their tour of the gallery in a dramatic, prehistoric underwater seascape that will transport them back to the floor of the Mississippian Sea that covered the Fort Worth Basin more than 330 million years ago. Then, through the full sensory experience of a state-of-the-art theater, they’ll take a journey through geologic time.

Outside the theater, guests will experience those technologies firsthand by entering a recreation of a Barnett Shale seismic site, where they’ll feel the ground shake alongside a real vibroseis truck, donated by Dawson Geophysical, Inc. Guests will learn how the truck transmits seismic energy down through geologic formations, then use touch-screen stations to record the data at a command unit, activate a geologic seismic model, and learn about natural gas formations by exploring a 3-D visualization room.

Next, a recreation of a drill site will allow guests to interact with a 40-foot skid rig model and explore an adjacent “doghouse” where – through a multimedia presentation – they’ll meet a toolpusher and driller

who explain how the rig is used to drill thousands of feet into the earth. Guests can then try their hand at using new simulated technologies to drill a horizontal well and fracture a shale formation with sand and high-pressure water to release natural gas. Later, guests will learn about the distribution of energy resources – and national energy consumption – by powering up a simulated natural gas electricity generation plant.

The challenges ahead

The gallery's examination of the technological challenges of production will be complemented by interactive exhibits that focus on energy challenges ahead, says Chick Russell, lead designer for the gallery. "Over the next 25 years, our energy needs are going to dramatically escalate. We'll be forced to look beyond conventional sources and find new technologies and sources of energy."

Those sources will be reflected in what Russell describes as the "bridge to the energy future," a detailed model of a city and surrounding urban area powered by an array of energy sources that offer solutions to the world's increasing demands for energy. Guests will be able to interact with the model, powering different parts of the city by routing energy sources from stations devoted to resources ranging from fossil fuels and coal power, to geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, wind and nuclear power.

"We want our guests to see that our energy future will depend upon a mix of renewable and non-renewable sources, each with its own merits and downsides based on the economics of demand, conservation, sustainability and the environment," says Charlie Moncrief. "Our hope is that by seeing our energy challenges, they'll be more likely to want to be a part of the energy solution and, that some of them may even be inspired to become geoscientists, engineers and geologists who will shape our energy future."

The gallery experience concludes as guests meet some of the legends who have already shaped, and are shaping, the future of energy. "They'll see, hear and read about personalities and achievements of the innovators who have helped build the industry and who have helped make this region the energy capital of the world," says Moncrief. The exhibit will include a special tribute to Houston's George Mitchell, who is credited as being the first to develop the Barnett Shale.

First exhibit element of new facility installed May 20

In May, development and construction of the gallery will take a decidedly visible turn as a key component of the gallery becomes the first exhibit element installed. On the morning of May 20, crews from Linbeck Construction will hoist a 47,000-pound vibroseis truck into the dedicated gallery space. The dimensions and weight of the truck make it impossible to drive the truck onto the Museum's foundation,

which has been reinforced in the energy gallery area to support its weight and the vibration generated by the exhibit's operation.

Construction crews will then continue to build the gallery and the rest of the Museum around the truck. Completion of the gallery – and its debut within the new Museum facility – is scheduled for the Fall of 2009.

About the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

Dedicated to lifelong learning and anchored by its rich collections, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History engages its diverse community through creative, vibrant programs and exhibits interpreting science and the stories of Texas and the Southwest. Since the mid-1980s, the Museum has annually welcomed more than 800,000 visitors, making it one of the most popular cultural attractions in North Texas.

The Museum is currently in the process of building a new facility – designed by internationally renowned architects, Legorreta + Legorreta – in the heart of Fort Worth's Cultural District.

###

For more information, or high-resolution images, contact:
Steve Anderson (817) 255-9411 / sanderson@fwmslh.org