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NEW RECYCLING SOLUTION INTRODUCED TO TREAT MARCELLUS SHALE FLOWBACK FRAC WATER

ALBUQUERQUE, NM– A new joint partnership provides a solution to the environmental issues surrounding the treatment of mineral-laden brackish water from Marcellus Shale drilling, a problem that has threatened to severely limit natural gas drilling in several northeastern states.

The partnership announced today is between Casella Waste Systems, Inc. based in Rutland, VT, and Altela, Inc., a privately held water desalination company in Albuquerque, NM. Together, these two companies have partnered to solve the environmental issue of brackish, salty water produced from drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale basin that until recently was often discharged into area rivers, with little or no treatment for hard-to-remove salt contaminants.

The newly formed joint partnership, “Casella-Altela Regional Environmental Services, LLC,” or “CARES,” will recycle brackish oilfield and natural gas wastewater into clean distilled water for future use by the industry. The cleaned water is the same quality as rainwater and can be recycled and reused by the oil and gas industry.

As part of the joint partnership, Altela will provide the technology to clean the brackish water to a quality higher than state and federal standards, while Casella will provide the working infrastructure and operational facilities for the treatment facility.

The first water treatment facility will be located at the Casella-owned landfill located in McKean County, PA. The placement of the treatment facility at the McKean landfill provides an excellent platform to provide a full suite of resource solutions to the drilling companies, including storage for brackish and clean water.

The water treatment facility will be powered by clean energy generated by methane gas captured from the landfill.

“This is a perfect environmental fit – making pure distilled water from brackish Marcellus oilfield water – at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the oil and gas industry in treating waste water,” said Ned Godshall, Altela’s Chief Executive Officer. “The unique AltelaRain® process cleans the frac water using primarily just the methane gas already coming off the landfill – not electricity.”

Since the McKean site is adjacent to an existing rail spur, the facility will enable both the transport of large volumes of frac flowback water to the site, and then clean treated water back to its customers throughout Pennsylvania and New York. This will minimize truck traffic to the facility, and reduce truck traffic throughout PA.

“The Marcellus Shale needs a sustainable solution to treat frac flowback water,” said Matthew Bruff, Altela’s Vice President, “and this partnership with Casella allows us to extend our corporate philosophy of sustainable re-use of water. It allows us to now extend, to E&P wastewater in northwestern Pennsylvania, the progressive re-use options for which we’ve been a leader in brackish oil and gas wastewater. As the world shifts from consumption to sustainability, Altela and Casella have been investing in technology that transforms traditional waste streams into resources, just as the methane gas from the McKean landfill, until now un-used, will power Altela’s desalination technology”. With forward-thinking sustainable waste management practices already in place throughout the Northeast, Casella is a natural fit with Altela’s revolutionary product and water regulatory experience.

Altela announced that this is the first of many facilities planned throughout the Northeast to combine the synergies of landfill waste energy with Altela’s unique reclamation of pure water from frac flowback water using low-grade heat – not expensive electricity. Further locations will be announced in the near future.

“Together, our companies bring a new dimension to water re-use, recycling, and environmental stewardship to energy extraction in the Marcellus and Utica Shale basin,” said Godshall. Altela treats water without electricity-intensive equipment, making the use of methane gas from landfills a perfect win-win solution. In addition, Altela’s technology does not require high temperatures or pressure, as used with other desalination technologies. Altela uses a low-energy thermal distillation method that mimics nature’s method of producing rain, and neither electricity nor pressure drives the process.

Altela, Inc. (www.altelainc.com) is treating frac flowback water in the Marcellus Shale with its patented technology at a facility in Williamsport, PA. Its technology has proven to remove virtually all salts and contaminants from wastewater to better than federal and state drinking standards, as validated by the PA Dept of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

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