

WORKERS ON THE SHALE

Oil and gas exploration in the Eagle Ford Shale play south of San Antonio is expected to generate thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic impact. But what kind of jobs does this industry produce and support?

To answer that question, the Business Journal asked San Antonio-based Lewis Energy Group LP to introduce readers to some of its growing staff.

Meet some of the faces who are working the massive petroleum play both on the field in Encinal, Texas, and offices here in San Antonio.

Special thanks to Lisa Damuth, director of public relations for Lewis Energy Group for her help with this article. Photography by Erik Reyna, San Antonio Business Journal.



Hector A. Rodriguez

Title: Operations Manager, Trucking

Job duties: My job is to manage all the mobile assets for our divisions covering fracturing, wire-line and coil tubing departments. I also oversee and all frac, wire-line, and coil tubing operations.

What do you like about your job? I like the atmosphere of our work environment. The relationship between all the divisions among Lewis Energy Group is all about teamwork. This company and all its managers make sure that employees and their families are top priorities. Family time and holidays are very important to every individual, and (CEO) Mr. Rod Lewis makes sure that he gives that time to all employees.

Biggest challenges: It's a challenge to keep all equipment in compliance with our safety standards. Hydraulic fracturing and rig movements are a fast and active part of the industry. We have to get the equipment tested, meet Department of Transportation requirements, and compete against other service companies on wages. The equipment, and materials such as high-pressure iron ... are all on back order, and sometimes there is a wait time of anywhere between eight to 36 weeks. Then there is the safety of all our employees. It is my responsibility to make sure that the employees are provided with all the safety equipment they need so that they get home to their families and loved ones.



Title: Oil Transport Driver

Job duties: I maintain the oil transporting equipment to ensure it's in road-worthy condition and gauge the oil tanks in the field. I also test oil gravity, check for oil cleanliness and oil temperature. I transport oil from the well site to the refineries.

Biggest challenges: Producing the maximum product possible while maintaining safety in this huge growing time.



Jose Martin Ibarra

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Title: Land Attorney**Job duties:** I handle lease acquisitions as well as amendments and extensions of our current leases. I work with landowners and/or their attorneys to resolve issues related to surface operations and royalty matters.**What do you like about your job?** My favorite part of the job is that I have the opportunity to develop new relationships with landowners as well as maintain existing ones. Building and maintaining good working relationships with landowners is a key function in the land department as we need the cooperation of landowners to build drilling locations, pipelines and other surface facilities necessary to oil and gas operations.**Biggest challenges:** The excitement over the new shale play very quickly drove up the cost of leasing across the board in a large portion of South Texas, including areas where the Eagle Ford was not prospective under current market conditions. Over the last several months, the natural gas prices have dropped significantly, which has negatively impacted the economics of Eagle Ford drilling in certain portions of the trend. In areas where there is strictly lean natural gas production and no condensate or oil, it has been difficult to educate landowners that not all Eagle Ford acreage is alike. What's more, in the current market, it may make the most sense for all parties involved to negotiate a reasonable extension in hopes that natural gas prices increase during that time period.

Amy Samuelson

Billy Swan

Title: Field Geologist, Mud Logging**Job duties:** I am responsible for geo-steering all of our directionally drilled wells. It is my job to monitor the well bore path to ensure we stay in our desired target window at a particular depth. I also supervise geological well-site duties, which includes open hole wireline-logging — a technique used to capture a specific signature to each well bore for correlation and mapping purposes. Every log we perform gives us an additional data point to derive a better understanding of the subsurface.**What do you like about your job?** I enjoy a challenging and fast-paced work environment and experiencing successful results. I enjoy growing intellectually as the company grows and working with professionals in the industry.**Biggest challenges:** Consistently coordinating with team members to ensure positive results for each well. Each well has its own identity and has to be researched thoroughly to have successful results.

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With decades of experience, our attorneys handle all aspects of transaction and litigation related oil and gas matters including exploration, production and transmission activities.

We have long-established offices in San Antonio, Carrizo Springs and Eagle Pass which are uniquely positioned to service businesses and landowners in the Eagle Ford Shale region.



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Ricardo (Rick) A. Torres



Title: Reservoir Engineering Manager

Job duties: My duties include management and development of our reservoir engineering staff (two reservoir engineers, and one engineering technician); surveillance of company production and reserve assets; response to day-to-day requests that arise from various functions both within and outside the company; providing industry-leading-edge technical expertise; project economic evaluation (drill-wells, acquisitions/ divestments, infrastructure); support and promote local community and professional/ industry groups; and health, safety and environment.

What do you like about your job? On the professional side, the opportunity to develop world-class assets from the ground-up — like what we are doing in South Texas — is absolutely rewarding. The associated community, company, professional, and personal challenge, growth, worth, reward, and work environment is awesome. On the personal side, returning to the central Texas area where I was born and raised — and where most of my family resides — is unbelievable. It is such a family-oriented and beautiful place to live.

Biggest challenges: Trying to provide the company with industry-leading-edge technical expertise. The resource and nano/micro-tight-rock assets of South Texas do not lend themselves to conventional reservoir engineering analysis. The industry is globally on a rapid learning curve, and we are helping to steepen that curve.

Jarrad Wolfe

Title: Drilling Engineer

Job duties: I plan day-to-day activities for rig operations — which includes pre- and post-planning activities relating to authorization for expenditure (AFE) generation and drilling program design. This includes designs for casing, mud, cement, directional drilling and well-control equipment. I also provide daily support for critical rig operations along with liaising internally between departments about drilling data pertinent to further well operations.

What do you like about your job? I enjoy the opportunity to interact with so many aspects of the well-delivery process and also still be in the trenches with day-to-day operational decisions. Lewis has provided a myriad of opportunities to learn and understand all aspects of the drilling process as well as be involved in — and make a contribution to — each other phase of the life of the well.

Biggest challenges:

Trying to coordinate the various services and personnel to unite behind the common goal of ensuring the fastest, safest, and most cost effective well design possible. Also, making sure that the entire team learns from our previous failures and continues to discover even more cost and time reductions to the drilling process.



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