

# Lamesa Press Reporter

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TRUCK LOADING LANES (LPR photo by Herrel Hallmark) U.S. Silica's sand mining and processing facility will be able to load 12 sand-hauling tractor-trailers at the same time when construction is completed and the facility becomes fully operational later this year. In April of last year the facility had plans to be able to load eight trucks at a time, but that number has been increased in conjunction with many other significant increases made for the facility. More than 500 truckloads of high-quality, fine-grain sand are expected to be leaving the facility on a daily basis for delivery to oil well hydraulic fracturing operations across the Permian Basin.

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## SAND PLANT SEES SIGNIFICANT INCREASE

Tue, 02/19/2019 - 11:00pm

### Facility, production, truckloads, workforce are more than originally planned

HERREL HALLMARK LAMESA PRESS-REPORTER

Almost a year and a half after plans were announced here, construction is only about 80 percent complete at the sand mining and processing operation owned by U.S. Silica just northwest of Lamesa.

But that delay actually is a good thing because the facility's production capacity has been increased significantly over the original plans, resulting in more

Lamesa, TX  
WEATHEROLOGY



85°  
Clear

Dew Point: 54°  
Humidity: 35%  
Pressure: 29.89"  
Visibility: 10.0 miles  
Winds: SE 12mph

Forecast
Currents
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construction than originally was anticipated as well as a workforce that will be almost double the original estimates.

"Lamesa is U.S. Silica's largest sand mine," Billy Ray Smith, Senior Vice President of U.S. Silica and President of Oil and Gas Proppants, told the Press-Reporter on Monday. "It's not the largest (sand mine) that I know of (owned by others), but it's pretty close."

The company currently operates over 25 mines and production facilities, including five in Texas.

No additional acreage has been acquired locally, so the overall size of the Lamesa site remains at 3,500 acres. That site reportedly has enough sand for more than 30 years of production.

The annual production goal for the site has been increased by 50 percent, going up from the previous four million tons to six million tons of sand per year.

The high-quality, fine-grain sand – 100 mesh and 40/70 – being produced at the local sand mine and plant is slated for use in oil well hydraulic fracturing operations across the Permian Basin.

"We increased our storage," Smith said as the reason for the increase in production numbers.

He added that the expansion of the oil industry in the Permian Basin has influenced production plans at the Lamesa sand mine.

Combined with U.S. Silica's four-million-ton sand mine in Crane, which was opened before the one here and should be fully operational in a few weeks, Smith said U.S. Silica will have a total production capacity of 10 million tons of sand per year for use in Permian Basin oilfields.

In order to increase the storage enough to hold 72,000 tons of sand at the Lamesa facility, Smith said, U.S. Silica has erected more of the silo-looking sand storage tanks.

In April of last year there were only two of the large storage tanks at the facility. There are 18 now with more under construction.

"When completed we will have a total of 24 storage tanks," Smith said. "Eighteen already are operational and we currently are putting up the last six."

With those additional storage tanks the facility also is adding to its truck loading lanes, increasing the total number of sand-hauling tractor-trailers that can be loaded at the same time from eight to 12.

Instead of the original estimate of 285 truckloads of sand expected to leave the local sand mine on a daily basis when operating at full capacity, Smith said that number now should be over 500 truckloads per day.

Last April a representative of U.S. Silica said the local sand mine and production plant would employ a total of 85 people.

It already has 120 employees, Smith said, and will have 150-200 when it reaches full capacity, which should be sometime during the second quarter of this year.

#### **Lamesa is U.S. Silica's largest sand mine. ...**

*Billy Ray Smith Sr. VP of U.S. Silica Pres. Oil, Gas Proppants*

Local job fairs are held on a regular basis to hire new employees, Smith said, adding that those job fairs are being held in Lamesa, instead of Lubbock or Midland, because U.S. Silica wants to hire local residents and believes in supporting the community where it is located.

Smith pointed out that U.S. Silica offers full company benefits, including major medical, dental and vision insurance, 401(k) retirement plan, life insurance, disability insurance and tuition reimbursement.

Originally cited as a \$150 million investment by U.S. Silica, with its expansion the sand mine and production plant at Lamesa now is an investment of more than \$225 million.

"This sand mine is the largest investment that U.S. Silica will make and has made in the last five years in oil and gas sand plants," Smith said about the Lamesa facility.

Hispanic Butterfly Release set here in remembrance of Page 45

Tom, Andrews split first two, deciding game is Suburban Page 45

Registration continues for summer, fall at Howard College Page 45

**Lamesa Press-Reporter**  
1910  
1910 Year No. 18, 14 Pages, Two Sections  
Lamesa, Texas, Friday, May 8, 1910

**NATIONAL LAND AND RANGE J IN LAHOMA**  
OFFICIALS WILL HEAR PRESENTATION Tuesday at Commissioners Court  
The land commission will hear the presentation of the National Land and Range Journal in Lahoma, Oklahoma, Tuesday, May 10, at 10 o'clock a.m. The journal is a publication of the National Land and Range Journal Association, which is a national organization of land and range managers. The journal is a publication of the National Land and Range Journal Association, which is a national organization of land and range managers. The journal is a publication of the National Land and Range Journal Association, which is a national organization of land and range managers.

**Study proposed for sheriff office facilities, jail**  
Officials will hear presentation Tuesday at Commissioners Court  
The sheriff's office and the jail are planning to build new facilities. The sheriff's office is planning to build a new building for the sheriff's office. The jail is planning to build a new building for the jail. The sheriff's office is planning to build a new building for the sheriff's office. The jail is planning to build a new building for the jail.


**National runners-up**  
Klondike FFA only two points behind title winner  
The Klondike FFA chapter is the runner-up in the National FFA competition. The Klondike FFA chapter is the runner-up in the National FFA competition. The Klondike FFA chapter is the runner-up in the National FFA competition.

**Sands is first runner-up at state OAP competition**  
The Lamesa sand mine is the first runner-up in the state OAP competition. The Lamesa sand mine is the first runner-up in the state OAP competition. The Lamesa sand mine is the first runner-up in the state OAP competition.

**Thought**  
The best time to give advice to your children is while they're old enough to believe you know what you're talking about.

**Weather**  
High 80 Low 60  
Wind SE 10-20  
Rain 10-20

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When U.S. Silica plans for a new facility, Smith said, it not only looks at the company's own investment it also looks at how the facility will impact the community.

U.S. Silica has made corporate donations to local organizations in Lamesa, such as Lamesa Boys and Girls Club and the Chicken Fried Steak Festival, as well as to the Lamesa and Klondike school districts. The employees of U.S. Silica also have been very active in the community, helping with fund-raising events and activities for various organizations.

U.S. Silica also supports local businesses by making purchases and using the services they offer.

Smith, who grew up in Lamesa and is a 1989 graduate of Lamesa High School, said he has a vested interest in seeing that the sand mine is successful here.

After high school graduation, Smith went to Texas Tech University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. He went to work for Halliburton, a global energy services company, in 1995 in Hobbs, N.M. and worked mainly in the Texas area.

He held various positions of increasing responsibility with Halliburton, including as North American Technology Director from October of 2015 to March of 2017.

Smith joined U.S. Silica in March of 2017 as Vice President of Oil and Gas. He was promoted to Senior Vice President of U.S. Silica and president of Oil and Gas Proppants in January of 2018.

He currently lives in Katy where U.S. Silica has its headquarters.

The sand mining and processing operation is located about 10 miles northwest of Lamesa, just north of County Road 11 about two miles west of the intersection of FM Highways 829 and 1064.

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