



For Immediate Release

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Highlands Drilling Completes 1,000th Horizontal Shale Well

CHARLESTON, WV, October 1, 2010 - Highlands Drilling, LLC announces that it has successfully completed the 1,000th horizontal well drilled for its customers since 2007.

According to J. Michael Poole, President of Highlands Drilling, “The Company has excelled in a niche market, drilling horizontal wells with a compressed air circulating medium. The economics of air drilling are far superior to fluid drilling and results in significantly less impact on the environment.”

Air drilling, sometimes referred to as “under-balanced drilling”, is especially important in the drilling of some shale gas prospects which are not compatible with fluid drilling. The technique has been commonly used for decades in Appalachia in the development of vertical wells, and was successfully adapted to horizontal environments in recent years.

Highlands has applied the air drilling concept for its customers in the hard rock shales in southern Appalachia, as well as select shallow sandstone horizons. The Company has also successfully drilled several horizontal wells in the Marcellus in the lower pressured region in the southern Appalachian using the air drilling technique.

Mr. Poole observes that, “Highlands has consistently kept its twelve rig fleet deployed over the past three years and the future looks very bright. Our outstanding employees are the key to our success and we celebrate their commitment to making Highlands great.”

About Highlands Drilling, LLC

Highlands Drilling, LLC is a privately owned contract drilling company formed in 2006 by its executive team, who continue to own and operate the Company. Highlands Drilling and its management team have a long and successful history operating in the Appalachian Basin. The Company owns and operates twelve state-of-the-art drilling rigs specially designed for Appalachian deployment. Its team of skilled drillers, experienced management and extensive relationships in the Appalachian Basin has resulted in it becoming an industry leader. For further information about Highlands Drilling, please visit www.HighlandsDrilling.com.

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