



## NOPFA, NSU partnership helps establish natural gas fueling station in Tahlequah

(Tahlequah, Okla.)--The Northeast Oklahoma Public Facilities Authority and Northeastern State University are partnering to create a compressed natural gas filling station in Tahlequah. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the alternative automobile fuel station is Thursday, Aug. 18 at 1 p.m. at the NOPFA CNG station in the Tahlequah Business and Industrial Park.

U.S. Rep. John Sullivan, who helped secure funding for the project, will serve as guest speaker. Sullivan, an NSU alumnus, is an author of H.R. 1835, the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions of 2011, or NATGAS Act. The bill seeks tax credits for CNG station construction, buying fuel and the purchase and manufacture of CNG vehicles.

"This impressive CNG fueling station is a visual reminder of the power of collaboration and commitment coming together for the public good of Tahlequah and our region. NSU Vice President of Operations Tim Foutch, who also serves as the NOPFA board secretary, and Jim Reagan, NOPFA general manager worked seamlessly with several other staff members and state and federal agencies to make this fill station a reality," said NOPFA board chairman and NSU President Martin Tadlock.

"With funding support of both Congressmen Dan Boren and John Sullivan, this special ARRA project serves as a catalyst for change in broad public, private and government adoption of compressed natural gas as the fuel of choice."

The CNG station is located on the western Highway 51 loop near West Choctaw Street and the Tahlequah Business and Industry Park. The fueling station will be operational 24/7 with credit card access for public use and fleet operations. When the station opens, it is expected to sell CNG for \$1.08 a gallon.

Opening a station in Tahlequah provides additional infrastructure supporting CNG vehicle operations. A second station is planned for Stilwell in Adair County. Several fueling sites are already in operation in northeast Oklahoma, including Muskogee and Broken Arrow.

While driving coast-to-coast on CNG requires intricate planning, a local station can provide cheaper fuel for business operations in a city or region. Some companies are already transitioning to CNG, including AT&T.

"Our supply chain and fleet operations are expanding our green fleet to approximately 15,000 vehicles – including the largest commitment to compressed natural gas vehicles to date by a U.S. company," said Craig Cromley, area manager of external affairs for AT&T Oklahoma "The nonprofit Center for Automotive Research estimates that over the 10-year deployment period, the new vehicles will save 49 million gallons of gasoline and reduce carbon emissions by 211,000 metric tons."

Tulsa Gas Technologies was contracted to build the Tahlequah and Stilwell stations. Tom Sewell, president of TGT, told the Tulsa World his station sells 8,000 gallons a month, of which about half goes to personal vehicles.

Reagan and Foutch wrote the grant request for funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus for construction of the station. However, the City of Tahlequah and Sullivan also partnered with NSU and NOPFA to secure funding.

"Thanks to the leadership and vision of all our partners, Tahlequah and soon Stilwell will have access to CNG as an alternative fuel," said Jerry Cook, NSU director of community and government relations. "This station will be an enhancement to the Tahlequah community and its economy. In the long term we want to see CNG systems operated in communities throughout northeast Oklahoma."

For information about converting vehicles to use CNG visit the [Compressed Natural Gas Cars website](#).

The nation's largest dealer of used CNG vehicles is in Morris, Okla. Visit [Morris Auto Sales](#).

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