

## Devon headquarters reaches full height

by Brianna Bailey

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Larry Nichols speaks during Devon Energy's "topping-out" celebration for its new headquarters Wednesday. (Maike Sabolich)

OKLAHOMA CITY – Construction workers topped out the more than 800-foot-tall Devon World Headquarters on Wednesday, marking the end of vertical construction on the \$750 million tower.

The final steel beam, along with a small evergreen tree and an American flag, were hoisted to the top of the tower on Wednesday morning as hundreds of workers in hard hats and safety vests applauded.

"This building is not just about Devon," Larry Nichols, Devon Energy's co-founder and executive chairman, told the workers. "You are also transforming the landscape of this city."

Record-breaking, triple-digit heat presented a challenge for workers on the Devon site over the summer, said John Wood, vice president of tower developer Hines.

"The way you combat it is through education, letting workers know what to watch for and instituting safety precautions," Wood said.

Workers at the site also had cool-off rooms where they could take breaks during the hot summer days, Wood said.

The completed corporate headquarters will feature 805,000 square feet of glass, enough to cover nearly 17 football fields, as well as 117 bathrooms and 50 elevators.

The finished project also will include 123,000 cubic yards of concrete, enough to pour 7,200 residential driveways and 19,000 tons of rebar steel.

Nichols visited the top floor of the tower earlier this week. It was a calm day with little wind, but he still has to be strapped in for safety reasons, he said.

"It's amazing up there," he said.

More than 1,200 construction workers are at work on the site. Activity at the site is expected to ramp up later this year with interior construction and landscaping work. About 1,400 workers are expected to be on the site when construction activity reaches its peak.

The first Devon employees are slated to begin moving into the tower in March. The company expects to transition all of its employees over to the new building by the end of June 2012, but construction will continue into early 2013. Major construction on the site is slated to wrap up in October next year.