

Love's to add CNG at 10 Oklahoma locations

Love's Travel Stops is adding compressed natural gas fueling stations at 10 Oklahoma locations in a partnership with gas producer Chesapeake Energy Corp.

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Published: October 26, 2011

Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores is teaming with Chesapeake Energy Corp. to add compressed natural gas fueling stations at 10 of its existing locations in Oklahoma.

The companies told *The Oklahoman* construction will begin in December to add CNG to Love's offerings at Interstate 35 and NW 122 in Oklahoma City and nine other state locations.

“We are seeing commercial and consumer interest in CNG continuing to rise,” spokeswoman Jenny Love Meyer said. “At Love's, we want to be sure we meet the needs of our diverse customer base by offering a variety of fueling options, which now includes CNG at a growing number of our locations in Oklahoma.”

Love's began selling CNG at its Kingfisher location in February.

Meyer said the new locations will give Love's a CNG footprint on interstates and in some smaller communities, helping officials gauge the demand for more fueling stations.

The family-owned Oklahoma City company's latest additions will push the number of public CNG fueling stations in Oklahoma to more than 50.

Chesapeake, an investment and strategic development partner in the Love's project, has been a vocal advocate of CNG as an alternative fuel. The company is converting its 4,500-vehicle fleet to run on CNG.

“Love's is a tremendous partner with us,” said Taylor Shinn, Chesapeake's senior director of corporate development. “They are a category leader in the commercial and leisure travel stop and convenience store industry with a growing national presence.”

Where will they be?

Love's has about 280 stores in 39 states. The company is adding CNG fueling stations in Altus, Chickasha, Guthrie, Guymon, Lawton, Norman, Okemah and Webbers Falls. The 10th new location has not been determined, company officials said.

The number of public CNG fueling stations in Oklahoma has grown steadily since state lawmakers enacted alternative fuel legislation two years ago.

“Understanding how the increased demand for domestic natural gas benefits Oklahoma's economy, Oklahoma lawmakers enacted model legislation other states could adopt to spur CNG infrastructure development and natural gas demand creation,” Shinn said “Today, in large part because of the commitment of Love's, Oklahoma is on its way to having over 100 public CNG fueling stations located along major transportation corridors.”

Oklahoma-based Preferred Services will build the new CNG stations for Love's.

“This endeavor is a great example of two leading Oklahoma companies working together and taking solid steps to expand the use of Oklahoma-produced natural gas,” Shinn said.



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