

## Job Spotlight - Ronco, PA Tank Project

Drilling for natural gas within the Marcellus Shale Formation has erupted in Pennsylvania like a broken water main. Many companies have rushed to the North East to extract portions of the DEP estimated 516 trillion cubic feet of trapped natural gas using a relatively new hydraulic fracturing process. Not only are these companies producing large volumes of natural gas, but they are also producing large quantities of wastewater known as frac-water that requires high levels of treatment prior to discharge.



One of the first construction permits issued by the PA DEP for a wastewater treatment facility designed solely to treat this waste frac-water has been constructed in Ronco, PA using four circular Dutchland tanks.

Shallenberger Construction, the General Contractor, and Owner of the private treatment facility, selected Dutchland as their tank builder based on schedule, quality, and pricing.

The job schedule was on a fast track when Dutchland was approached about the project in June. The goal of the General Contractor was to have the facility receiving waste by January 1,

2010. In order to meet the project deadline the four Dutchland tanks, which include two 50.25-foot diameter Clarifiers, one 28 foot diameter Aeration tank, and one 35-foot diameter Effluent Storage tank were designed, manufactured, and installed in just four months.

CME, the project engineer, whom Dutchland also worked with on the Quemahoning 2.0 MG potable water storage tank, had originally designed the structures cast-in-place, and supported on concrete caissons with a pile cap. After further evaluation of the geotechnical report it was concluded that the precast post-tensioned tanks would not require the caissons or pile cap, thusly eliminating a substantial expense, and time consuming aspect of the tank construction.

Due to the corrosive nature of the frac-water being treated at the site the General Contractor applied a 120-mil thick interior coating of CIM to the tank walls and bases. A broom finish was applied to the interior of the tanks to increase the bond between the concrete and the coating.

Three of the tanks were also outfitted with an impression of the Shallenberger company logo. The impression was created by Big3D Productions Inc. in Colorado and shipped to manufacturing in time to meet the stringent project schedule. Big3D Productions also created the blue crab impression for the Crisfield project and the apple impression for the Knouse Foods tank.



Frac-water treatment is proving to be a viable new market for engineers, contractors, and suppliers in the geographic region underlain by the Marcellus Shale Formation. Dutchland is positioned well for continued success in the frac-water treatment market with the Ronco project largely complete, and several other projects currently in design.