

**WALDEMAR S. NELSON AND COMPANY**  
INCORPORATED  
ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

“consultant”®

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**NELSON Adds Second Houston Office Location on West Side**

By: James B. Lane, P.E.

*Most of the following article was first published in the CONSULTANT, 4th Quarter 2009. It is updated here to reflect our continued Houston Office growth.*

With the current boom in oil & gas, we are poised again to take another step function in growth of our Houston Office. Effective January 1, 2014, we have leased nearly 19,000 sf of office space in the Westchase District of west Houston at 10375 Richmond Avenue. This office is in addition to our existing Northpoint Office and will function as a satellite office. Strategically situated at the corner of Beltway 8 and Richmond Avenue, this location is in the heart of the District and adjacent to Houston's Energy Corridor. This should prove to be an effective tool in expansion of business from clients on the west side of Houston, as well as providing an attractive base for employees residing nearby.

It seems like only yesterday that the successful decision was made that NELSON should expand its capabilities to service its clients by opening an office in Houston, Texas. But indeed, nearly fourteen years have passed since the first NELSON office lease was signed on February 1, 2000, marking this important milestone in our corporate history.

Since a joint venture sales office had been opened in 1999, depending



**10375 Richmond Avenue**

on who is counting, the anniversary may even be considered to be fifteen years at this point. Other than short term project offices, since its founding in 1945, NELSON had always existed with a single city office. With the relocation from New Orleans to Houston of a large number of energy companies, it became apparent in the

late 1990's that a large sector of our core business was becoming underserved. In addition, it was determined that there would be a great long term advantage to the company by diversifying both technically and geographically. The decision was made to transfer a number of existing NELSON management personnel from New Orleans to Houston so that the already established relationships with our newly departed clients could be maintained. This approach had the added benefit of allowing the new Houston office to transfer the NELSON project approach to those newly hired employees in the Houston area.

Since those days early in 2000 when all four of the original managers spent the majority of their days calling on prospective clients, the staff of nearly 125 today is actively engaged on projects which are the fruit of those efforts. Fourteen years of engineering design by the Houston office have witnessed some very interesting projects.

**Early Years (2000 - 2003)**

On February 1, 2000, Waldemar S. Nelson and Company leased approximately 2,000 square feet in the 2323 Voss Street building. The staff included General Manager Jim Lane,







Richmond Office Conference Room

NELSON continues to support Wärtsilä and Citec in providing power to North American clients through engineering services related to ancillary structure and equipment design for “equipment supply” contracts. NELSON has provided engineering services for such projects in Texas, Oregon, Alaska, Minnesota, British Columbia, Alberta and Mexico.

### Unconventional Resources

Another important step in our technical and geographic diversification was taken when NELSON was engaged by Shell Exploration and Production Company to assist with their research and development of new technologies to enable them to produce hydrocarbons from oil shale deposits in Colorado and other locations. NELSON participated in a series of projects in Houston at a Shell R&D facility as well as a number of pilot plant designs in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The largest of these projects was the Colorado Freeze Wall Test, which was a pilot project designed to demonstrate Shell’s ability to construct an underground environmental containment system around an oil shale production site by

circulating chilled refrigerant into a subsurface closed-loop system to form an impermeable ice barrier. Preliminary design work was commenced in early 2005, and continued through detailed design and construction, culminating with

start-up in April, 2007. More recently, we’ve completed work on another pilot plant in Colorado to help demonstrate the viability of Shell’s proprietary technology in oil shale, and we are currently engaged in the detailed design of a similar facility in the Middle Eastern country of Jordan.

In addition to the R&D support we provided, NELSON was engaged to perform conceptual design and cost estimating services for a number of very large commercial-scale projects in Colorado, Wyoming, and Alberta, Canada. Additional opportunities continue to become available as work in North American shale discoveries proliferates. NELSON has provided engineering and design services in several of these areas in recent years, including the West Texas Permian Basin, the Eagle Ford shale plays in South Texas, and the Mississippi Lime discoveries in Kansas. We are confident that these unconventional oil and gas discoveries will continue to provide engineering and design project opportunities to us in the future.

### Chad Oil & Gas Facilities

The Nelson Houston Office began

Richmond Office Reception Area



working for Esso Exploration & Production Chad, Inc in 2005 on their onshore oil and gas facilities in Chad, Africa. The original project consisted of production and water injection wells, a new manifold, transmission line, pipeline design and a 2000HP VFD driven water injection pump. Revisions to the existing processing facilities included a new 2 phase separator, two gas compressors and an additional emulsion pump. NELSON has enjoyed continuous project work with EEPIC since that time including two high pressure water injection facilities with 7000hp VFD driven pumps, numerous production manifold projects, water injection wells, studies to enhance production at the treating facilities and we are currently involved with a Turbine Crude Oil Firing project. All of these projects involve detailed engineering design, procurement services including purchasing materials, expediting and source inspection.

### Present Years and Beyond (2013 - -)

Moving to Houston has become a huge step in achieving geographic diversity, as service to the oil and gas industry has brought us around the world. In keeping with the international flavor of the City of Houston, in just fourteen years’ time, NELSON personnel have provided engineering services to projects which are located in over 20 different countries. While providing these services, Houston employees have traveled to such locations as Korea, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, the Netherlands, Finland, Russia, Indonesia, Norway, Germany, Canada, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Italy, Japan, Qatar, England, Mexico and Monaco.

Business in our Houston Office has continued to flourish. A fourteen year look back has brought into focus what an excellent decision this has been for the company. With the City of Houston serving as the Energy Capital of the World, it is easy to project a bright future for a company that has as extensive a resume in the oil and gas industry as that possessed by NELSON. The expansion to Houston, and now the opening of an additional office, has certainly provided an additional step in our goal to technical and geographic diversity.

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## *New Orleans and Houston Offices Celebrate the Holidays*



Robert and Patty Griffin, Susan Stewart



Ken Nelson, Karin Levesque, Dottie and Charles Nelson



Robby & Anna Denman



Ernie Orgeron helps deliver the New Orleans office donations to Volunteers of America

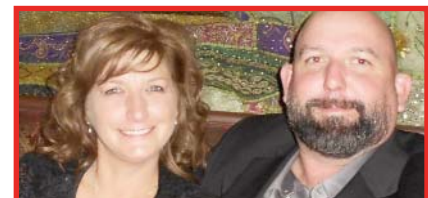
Slater Bass and Angel Boudreaux gather the gifts donated by Houston employees for The Salvation Army.



Bart & Cheryl Harris



Kim Nguyen & Austin Perkins



Angel Boudreaux and Hugh Carmichael