

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**NORTHEAST NATURAL ENERGY ACQUIRES 11,657 NET ACRES IN THE MARCELLUS SHALE FROM NYTIS EXPLORATION COMPANY**

CHARLESTON, WV – March 11, 2010 – Northeast Natural Energy LLC (“NNE”) announced today that it has closed the acquisition of 11,657 net acres in the core of the Marcellus Shale and associated shallow conventional oil and gas wells from Nytis Exploration Company LLC and from Nytis Exploration of Pennsylvania LLC (“Nytis”), both private exploration and production companies. Financial terms were not disclosed.

“We are very pleased to establish a significant acreage position in the core of the Marcellus Shale,” said Mike John, NNE’s President. “The acreage, which is very high in quality, is located in some of the most attractive areas in the Marcellus including Armstrong, Clearfield and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania. This transaction provides a platform for future bolt-on positions in the region and establishes NNE’s position as a key participant in the development of the Marcellus Shale. We look forward to drilling this acreage as we continue to evaluate many other substantial opportunities in the Marcellus.”

**About Northeast Natural Energy**

Northeast Natural Energy LLC, headquartered in Charleston, WV, is a private oil and gas company focused on natural gas drilling, exploration, acquisition and joint-venture opportunities in the Marcellus Shale. The principals of NNE have worked together in various capacities for over 20 years and possess a significant amount of knowledge and operational expertise in the Appalachian Basin, in particular the Marcellus Shale formation.

*For more information, please visit [www.northeastnaturalenergy.com](http://www.northeastnaturalenergy.com).*

### **About Metalmark Capital**

Metalmark Capital is a leading private equity firm whose principals have a long track record of successful investing in targeted sectors, with particular focus and competence in energy and natural resources, industrials and healthcare. Metalmark Capital seeks to build long-term value through active and supportive partnerships with the companies and management teams in which they invest. Metalmark Capital is an investment center of Citi Capital Advisors.

For more information, please visit [www.metalmarkcapital.com](http://www.metalmarkcapital.com).

*This press release does not constitute an offering of interests in any fund or partnership managed by Metalmark Capital. If and when an investment opportunity is structured, all investors must obtain and carefully read the related confidential offering memorandum and any amendments or supplements thereto.*

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