



## **NEW CENTURY ENERGY CORP. AND STRONG PETROLEUM GROUP SIGN DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR PRADO FIELD**

HOUSTON, TX – 12 May 2005 - New Century Energy Corp. (OTCBB: NCEY) and Strong Petroleum Group, Inc. (formerly Maverick Energy Resources Corp.) have signed a definitive Development Agreement for the Prado Field in Jim Hogg County, Texas. The agreement follows the group's Memorandum of Understanding announced 14 March 05, permitting the redevelopment of the Prado Field lease with particular attention to re-completions and possible new drilling in the Yegua formation.

Strong Petroleum has already commenced a comprehensive review and study of field geology, production history, engineering as well as reprocessing and interpretation of 3D seismic as part of the initial work program. Existing wells for re-entry and re-completion have been identified and scheduled for workover. Additionally, a minimum of two new wells may be drilled under the initial phase of the work program. The agreement calls for Strong to invest \$2.0 million in the initial work program, and to pay an undisclosed signing bonus to New Century.

Since its discovery in 1956, the Prado Field has produced from nine oil reservoirs and seven gas reservoirs, all above 3,800 feet. Gas production peaked in 1962 at 7 BCF per year. Oil production peaked in 1967 at 2.66 million barrels per year. In 2004, New Century purchased its lease in the Prado Field, which covers an area of 1,280 acres and a depth from surface to 5,000 feet. Currently, two producing wells are on the lease, #20 and #701, with an average daily production of approximately 16 BOPD.

"Knowing the history of the Prado Field, we are very excited about the potential for developing formations that might not have been fully explored, and for producing bypassed primary and secondary oil and gas reserves in Prado, while seeing the full extent of the field," says Edward DeStefano, CEO of New Century Energy Corp. "There are various stratigraphic and structural traps on New Century's lease. Of particular interest will be the Yegua formation which has at least ten sands that could contain significant reserves."

The lease's mineral owner, the Kenedy Memorial Foundation, has consented to Strong's participation with New Century.

"Because we will reprocess the existing 3D seismic and use the state-of-the-art technology, we expect to be able to capture an optimal image of the target sands and other potential gas accumulations," concluded DeStefano.

In the initial \$2 million-dollar work program, Strong Petroleum will pay 100% of the initial work program expenditures while providing New Century and its partner, Aquatic Cellulose, a 12.5% carried interest. The work program is expected to begin in 60 days.

**About New Century Energy Corp.**

New Century Energy Corp. is an oil and gas exploration and production company headquartered in Houston, Texas concentrating on domestic activity. The Company currently holds over 4,000 acres throughout Texas, including both large natural gas producing fields, such as South Sargent in Matagorda County, and oil producing acreage in the San Miguel Creek and Tenna oil fields in McMullen and Wharton Counties, Texas.

**About Strong Petroleum Group, Inc.**

Strong Petroleum Group, Inc., a Texas corporation (formerly Maverick Energy Resources Corp.), is the U.S. affiliate of New Highland Oil Development Co., LTD., headquartered in the Dagang Oil Field, one of the largest, comprehensive oil production bases in China. New Highland's main business is the development and production of oil and natural gas fields using advanced production and secondary recovery technology.

**Forward-Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Act"). In particular, when used in the preceding discussion, the words "believes," "expects," "intends," "will," "anticipated," or "may," and similar conditional expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Act, and are subject to the safe harbor created by the Act. The Securities and Exchange Commission has generally permitted oil and gas companies in their filings with the SEC to disclose only proved reserves that a company has demonstrated by actual production or conclusive formation tests to be economically and legally producible under existing economic and operating conditions. We use the terms probable and possible reserves, reserve potential or upside or other descriptions of volumes of reserves potentially recoverable through additional drilling or recovery techniques that the SEC's guidelines may prohibit us from including in filings with the SEC. These estimates are by their nature more speculative than estimates of proved reserves and accordingly are subject to substantially greater risk of being actually realized by the company. Except for historical information, all of the statements, expectations and assumptions contained in the foregoing are forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. The reserve data included herein represents only estimates. Reserve engineering is a subjective process of estimating underground accumulations of oil and natural gas that cannot be measured in an exact manner. As a result, estimates of different engineers often vary. The estimates of reserves, future cash flows and present value are based on various assumptions, including those prescribed by the SEC relating to oil and natural gas prices, and are inherently imprecise. Our reserves and future cash flows may be subject to revisions based on many factors. It is possible that the assumptions made by management are not necessarily the most likely, and may not materialize, including but not limited to the possible undeveloped gas reserve. In addition, other important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include the following: business conditions and the amount of growth in the Company's industry and general economy; competitive factors; ability to attract and retain personnel; the price of the Company's stock; and the risk factors set forth from time to time in the Company's SEC reports, including but not limited to its annual report on Form 10-KSB; its quarterly reports on Forms 10-QSB; and any reports on Form 8-K. New Century Energy Corp. (OTCBB:NCEY) takes no obligation to update or correct forward-looking statements, and also takes no obligation to update or correct information prepared by third parties that is not paid for by the Company.

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