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Chamber talks Shale

by Christian Morrow
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Not surprisingly, there was a near full house at the African American Chamber of Commerce for Marcellus Shale Coalition President and Executive Director Kathryn Klaber's Power Breakfast presentation.

Klaber's PowerPoint broke down the shale gas drilling process into its component parts to show that there are multiple supply chains, and therefore multiple business opportunities for small and minority-owned companies, depending on their expertise. The areas she highlighted

were site preparation, production, transportation and logistics, water management and piping.

"Actually, if you look at our website, at our 173 members, you can get an overview of the supply chain," she said.

As for site preparation, Klaber said she expects the pace of well drilling to go from its current 1,743 per year to 3,587 per year by 2020. Each one of those pads requires grading equipment and supplies, sand, gravel, cranes. Each of those suppliers has needs also.

"We have local companies, Cleveland Brother, Eaton, Mine Safety Appliances just

in the site prep alone. Who does vehicle maintenance," she said. "We have attorneys and environmental consultants working with drillers and property owners on property issues including detailed requirements for reclaiming old sites—what do you plant, for instance."

For production, again sites need cranes, drill bits, steel pipe and concrete. These wells go 5,000 to 9,000 feet down then horizontally for up to a mile.

Logistics and transportation requires roads to be built in some cases, trucks, and asphalt. In one case,

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GETTING IN ON THE GOLD RUSH—African American Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Doris Carson Williams joins Marcellus Shale Coalition President and Executive Director Kathryn Klaber and Doug Matthews of U.S. Steel in answering questions about supplying products and services to Marcellus companies.