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Officials expect new training facility to bring business to the city

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A new training facility will bring in business for the city of Katy, Greg Hazlett, vice president of PetroSkills, said at the city meeting held Dec. 10.

PetroSkills, a petroleum training company, plans to have the Katy Training Center built by the upcoming summer and expects to have more than 4,000 participants who will not be from the Houston Metropolitan Area.

The center teaches more than 180 different courses, concerning the petroleum industry, and will have more than 1,200 sessions in the next year with more than 6,000 participants at the Katy Training Center.

The board was in favor of PetroSkills' request to approve the filing of the plat after the utility work is complete. The utility work will be finished by this week, Hazlett said. Since the board is only meeting one time during this month due to the holiday season, this will allow PetroSkills to continue to begin construction their building instead of waiting until the next board meeting. City Engineer David Leyendecker said he would sign off on the utility work once it was completed and met with city code.

The center was set to open this month earlier this year but after the Katy Mills Mall sold more than 200 acres to Simon Property group and Farallon Capital Management, PetroSkills had to wait to purchase the land from the new owners.

The business will be located on the south side of Katy Mills Boulevard. Plans are for the training center to be 30,000 square feet with 11 training rooms and office space for 20 employees. The company began in Texas in 1963 as Oil & Gas Consultants International. It was an oil and gas consulting firm. Shell, BP and OGI formed the PetroSkills alliance in 2001.