Project: Produced Water Recycling Initiative in the Uinta Basin, Utah

Executive Summary

SM Energy has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to environmental stewardship through the development of a state-of-the-art produced water recycling system in Utah's Uinta Basin. By treating produced water, historically viewed as a byproduct or waste, as a vital resource, SM Energy has successfully mitigated the demand for fresh water in energy operations, directly supporting Utah's water security and agricultural resilience.

Project Description

Recognizing the critical need for responsible water management in one of the nation's most arid regions, SM Energy has invested over $100 million in dedicated infrastructure for water recycling. This comprehensive system includes:

- A robust network of hundreds of miles of pipeline and a central main trunk line.
- Advanced storage facilities, booster stations, and precise metering systems to ensure safe and efficient transport.
- Continuous monitoring protocols that allow for real-time leak detection and operational oversight.

Environmental Impact and Innovation

SM Energy's commitment to recycling is both extensive and measurable. As a result of this investment, SM Energy is able to conduct their well completions with 100% produced water, effectively offsetting 100,000 - 120,000 barrels of fresh water daily. This transition from freshwater dependence to a circular water-use model represents a significant evolution in operational strategy, aligning with the regulatory certainty provided by Utah's 2024 House Bill 295 (HB295).

By significantly reducing the use of fresh water from local rivers and reservoirs, SM Energy's efforts protect vital water rights for Uinta Basin's robust agriculture industry, ensuring that local farmers can continue their essential operations in the Uinta Basin despite increasing regional water scarcity.

Commitment to Sustainability

Beyond water recycling, SM Energy integrates this way of thinking into a broader corporate culture of sustainability. Their business model prioritizes not only capital efficiency but also rigorous safety and environmental performance, highlighting their commitment to exceptional stewardship. Their Uinta Basin operations serve as a benchmark for how the oil and gas industry can align economic production with proactive resource conservation, ensuring long-term prosperity for the communities in which they live and work.