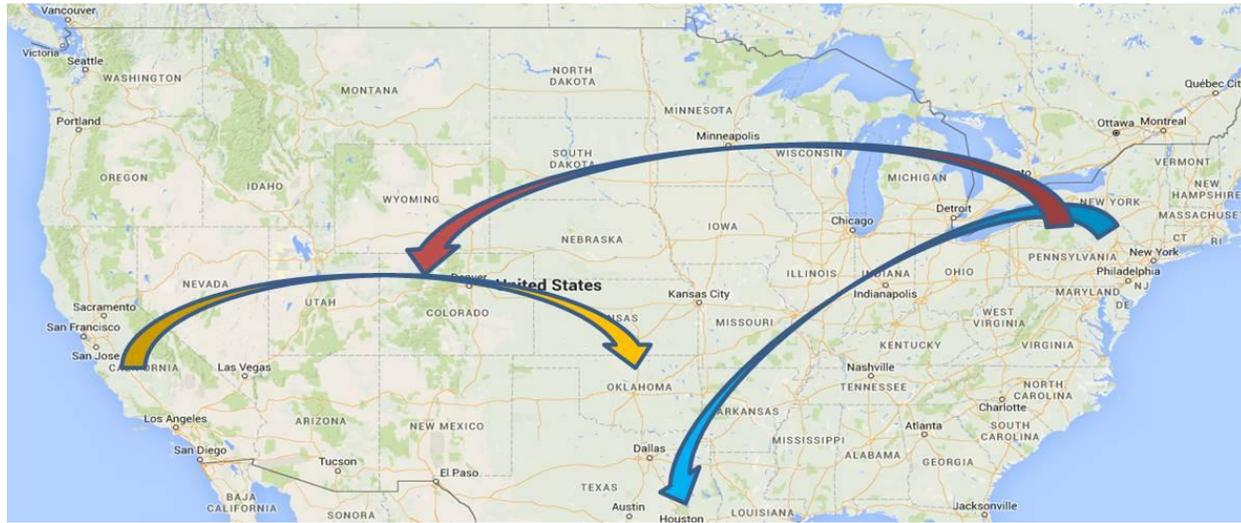


Relocation: Beyond The Job



In the energy industry, jobs tend to be concentrated in certain geographical areas. For job seekers in the energy sector, this often means relocating to find the perfect position. Deciding to move for a job is an incredibly personal decision, and one that typically involves considerations beyond whether or not the job is right for you. If you are considering moving for a job, here are just a few things that you should think about before making a decision.

Quality of Life

One of the most important factors to consider is what your quality of life will be in the new city. After all, even the most dedicated employee has a life outside of the office — and things like cost of living and the activities that a city offers contribute to your satisfaction. Think about how far your salary will go in the new city; will it be eaten up by housing and daily living costs? You should also carefully consider whether the city is a good match for your lifestyle, and make a list of pros and cons for both your current and potential cities. This list should include items such as climate, culture, safety, and the accessibility of hobbies and interests that you enjoy. Ultimately, your life outside of work is an important part of your overall happiness, and it is an important part of the equation when looking at relocation.

Personal Life

When you're single, it is fairly easy to move to a new city or country. But if you have a spouse, significant other or a family, the decision is far more complicated. Think about how moving will affect your relationship, including whether or not your partner would be able to find a job in the new city. Moving can be stressful for many couples, particularly if the move means losing a social support network of family and friends. If you have children, consider how relocating will impact them. Before uprooting their lives, evaluate what a move will entail: changing schools, making new friends, and leaving sports teams or other extra curricular activities. If family members currently help out with childcare, think about how you will fill that gap if you won't have any close family in the new destination. Each of these items is an important consideration in deciding if relocation is a realistic option for you.

Local Economy

Finally, look closely at the local economy to assess what you will do if your dream job turns out to be a nightmare. Is the local economy robust, or is it more of a one company town? Would you be required to relocate again to find employment? Will you be able to sell your house if necessary? Working through the worst case scenario is key to deciding whether relocation is a smart choice.

Deciding to relocate for a job is a difficult decision that requires you to evaluate many factors beyond the job itself. Before an interview, think critically about each of these issues to determine whether or not you are truly willing to relocate.