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ACT is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Steve Burton, President; Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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Inside

Insulators 2	Pg. 2
Ironworkers 787	Pg. 2
Hope Gas	Pg. 3
Ironworkers 301	Pg. 3
Marcellus	Pg. 4
Insulators 80	Pg. 4

SPECIAL SESSION FOR MARCELLUS

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin called the legislature into a Special Session starting on Sunday December 11.

The purpose was to address legislation concerning Marcellus Shale environmental regulations.

Most agree current state environmental law does not adequately cover the growing boom in Marcellus Shale activity.

During the regular legislative session a bill intended to add to current law did not pass, primarily because of industry in-fighting.

A number of issues in addition to environmental concerns over water, air and waste have been touched on.

Labor has proposed the mandatory use of apprentices, drug and alcohol testing and more emphasis on using local workers for the many jobs related to the Marcellus

activity.

Groups representing people who own surface rights but not the mineral rights on property being drilled have also expressed concerns.

As the ACT Report goes to press, the session is just underway, the many issues are

still undecided.

However labor representatives have agreed to provisions calling for detailed wage and occupation studies.

"We should be able to find out how many jobs are going to local workers as compared to imported workers," said

Kenny Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO.

"And we want to know the wages and occupational titles of these workers because we believe most if not all the jobs can be done by the many skilled workers we already have in West Virginia."



(FROM LEFT) Del. Greg Butcher (D-Logan), Del. Dan Poling (D-Wood) and ACT's Steve White discuss Marcellus legislation during the special session.

STUDY SAYS NON-LOCAL HIRING IN MARCELLUS COSTS ECONOMY

West Virginia loses millions of dollars when local construction workers are passed over on Marcellus Shale projects, according to a newly released study.

The study, done by Marshall University's Center for Business and Economic Research, calculated the total local wage impact of building a large gas processing facility similar to the one being built in Marshall County by Dominion Resources.

Richmond-based Dominion has hired CBI-Lummus, a Texas-based contractor to

build the facility.

According to the study, the total economic impact from wages is nearly eight times greater when local construction workers are used rather than non-local workers. Furthermore, a community loses \$76.6 million in wages when transient workers from far away states are brought in. Spending on hotels and food only replaces a very small portion of the economic loss.

Likewise the State of West Virginia would lose more than \$3 million in tax receipts.

The study based its estimates on a project similar in scale, scope and location to

Dominion's project, which will take two-and-a-half years to build and will employ a peak of 600 workers.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$500 million.

The Affiliated Construction Trades (ACT) requested the study to statistically compare the use of local and non-local workers and the resulting economic effects on the local community.

"This study demonstrates in stark dollars and cents terms the difference between using local workers and imported workers," said Dave Efaw, secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia State Build-

ing and Construction Trades of which ACT is a part.

"It's the same as losing 50 jobs paying \$50,000 a year for 30 years."

The study also takes into account spinoff from local paychecks to arrive at the "total output impact" which includes retail sales, health care and professional services. Using local labor creates 85 percent more output in a community's economy.

"West Virginia loses hundreds of jobs and millions in revenue when companies import workers," said Efaw. "But if companies hire lo-

Continued on p. 2

INSULATORS QUESTION SUBCONTRACTOR

Representatives of Insulators Local 2 are questioning if specifications are being followed for a project at Camp Dawson.

The Army National Guard is building a Joint Interagency Training and Education Center Project at Camp Dawson located in Preston County.

Whiting-Turner from Baltimore is the general contractor and the subcontractor in question is Hall Industrial Insulation Inc.

Hall is from the Cleveland, Ohio area and has brought their workers to the project.

According to Insulator 2 Business Representative Tom Mulholland the specifications for the project clearly state the mechanics on the project must have successfully completed an apprenticeship

program certified by the U.S. DOL Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

Mulholland does not believe this specification, and others, are being followed.

After talking to the general contractor and architect, Mulholland called upon elected officials for assistance.

He also set up a banner and distributed informational handbills raising questions about a number of quality specifications.

Mulholland is also talking to workers on the project who think they may not be getting paid properly.

Congressman David McKinley (R-Ohio) wrote back to Mulholland on December 5 and shared a response he got from Major General James Hoyer who was responding to concerns McKinley raised earlier.

“We have addressed these concerns with the general contractor and given him a timeframe to respond,” wrote Hoyer on December 2.

Hoyer is the Adjutant General over all Army Guard activities in the state.

“We just want a fair and level playing field to com-

pete,” said Mulholland. “We want to make sure the specifications are being followed and that Hall is not getting an unfair advantage.”



USING A BANNER to raise awareness about possible specifications issues are Insulator Agent Mike Loeffert, and insulator mechanic Ric Jones of Kingwood, WV at the Camp Dawson site in Preston County.

PARKERSBURG IRON WORKERS 787 TAKE APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS

STUDY

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

cally it leads to significant economic growth.”

While the service industry, with its historically lower paying jobs, will see an upswing when non-local construction workers are used, other industries, such as retail and medical services, will experience a significant drop, according to the study.

The study examined only the labor impact of the project and didn't take into account possible losses in local revenue due to companies importing their building materials and supplies.

According to Efav, local workers are trained and certified drug-free with a successful track record working in the gas industry.

Iron Workers Local 787 Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) now accepts applications every Wednesday for their apprenticeship program.

Those interested must fill out the application at 303 Erickson Boulevard, Parkersburg in person, during regular Wednesday business hours: 8:00 am – noon and 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, capable of performing work of the Iron Worker trade, be a high school graduate or have a

GED, and pass an aptitude test given by the Parkersburg Workforce office.

In addition an applicant must live within Local 787's area for at least one year prior to applying.

The area covered by Local 787 in Ohio includes the Counties of Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Noble, and Washington; in West Virginia: Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Lewis, Mason, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Upshur, Wirt and Wood Counties.

If selected, a candidate must pass a substance abuse test.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Program teaches in the classroom as well as on-the-job.

Classes are held evenings and Saturdays, allowing on-the-job learning while getting paid.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely, efficiently, and effectively perform all aspects of the trade.

Class consists of a variety of applications including structural, ornamental, rod and reinforcing, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

The Iron Worker apprenticeship process is a four

year program with wage rates starting out at 50% of Journeyman scale with full benefits.

Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

Applications will be kept on file for a year.

No applicant will be rejected because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

Iron Workers Local 787 JAC will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunities in apprenticeship.

For more information contact Dan Slavin, Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 304-485-6231.

DOMINION'S SUBSIDIARY HOPE GAS LOSES ON WALL ST., WANTS CUSTOMERS TO PAY

On September 16 Hope Gas, a subsidiary of Dominion, filed a revised request with the West Virginia Public Service Commission to approve a recalculation of its gas rate – the price Hope pays for its raw natural gas.

The recalculation could result in an estimated 34% increase in the rate customers pay for gas.

One reason Hope claims they are paying a higher than market rate for natural gas is because they took a gamble

on Wall Street in the futures market, hedging their bets on the market price of natural gas.

Last year Hope thought the price of natural gas would continue to increase, so they purchased “natural gas future contracts.”

Hope’s gas futures contracts represent large volumes of gas at fixed prices for the next year. Unfortunately for Hope, and maybe for West Virginia customers, the gas market prices decreased and Hope is now left paying much higher than prevailing market rates for their gas.

Since 2005 Hope Gas’

stock market gambling has consistently produced extremely large above market gas costs. Now they want the customers to pay for their bad bets in the future’s market.

The Affiliated Construction Trades has petitioned to intervene on the matter Hope Gas has brought before the PSC. If approved they intend to present evidence of alternative gas price hedging strategies that can be used under certain circumstances so as to reduce the market risk of Hope Gas future’s market hedges, and therefore limit the level of higher-than-market costs to West Virginia

customers.

“When Hope Gas makes huge profits do they share them with their customers or shareholders?”, asked Steve White ACT Director.

“Now that they’ve made

a mistake that has cost them money they think the customer should be the ones to suffer – we disagree. The Trades Council doesn’t want to see West Virginians paying for Hope Gas’ mistakes.”

IRON WORKERS 301 WANTS APPRENTICES

The Iron Workers Local 301 Apprenticeship Training Program in Charleston is accepting applications for their Winter term.

Applications are taken year round, Monday thru Friday, at 2425 Hampshire Drive in Charleston, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

To be considered in the upcoming class you must submit your application no later than Friday, January 13.

An aptitude test will be given on Saturday, January 14 and interviews on Saturday, January 21.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Program teaches in the classroom as well as on-the-job.

Classes are held two nights a week, allowing on-the-job learning while getting paid.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely, efficiently, and effectively perform all aspects of the trade.

Class consist of a variety of applications including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

The Apprenticeship is a three year program starting out at 60% of Journeyman wage scale with full benefits.

Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and live, for at least the last year, in the area covered by Local 301 which includes the WV Counties of Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Webster, Wyoming and the southern half of Randolph.

Also included are the Virginia Counties of Buchanan, Dickerson, Russell, Tazewell, Wise and Washington, and Pike County Kentucky.

If selected, a drug test will also be required.

All applications will be received without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

For more information contact Rick Barker, Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 304-342-5343 or visit their web site at ironworkers301.com.

OPERATING ENGINEERS GET NEW CRANE FOR TRAINING



OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 132 Business Manager Tommy Plymale (center) poses with Training Director Chuck Parker (left) and Assistant Business Manager Rodney Marsh in front of a new Manitowoc 11000 crane.

The Apprenticeship and Training program recently purchased the 110 ton crane which has 150 feet of main boom and a 30 foot jib. It also has green technology from the tier-4 engine which cuts the exhaust emissions and has different hoisting configurations to save fuel and improve production.

According to Training Director Chuck Parker the new crane has the newest technology which is quite different than older cranes. The goal of the program is to make sure members keep up with current technology.

NEW MARCELLUS PRINCIPLES CAMPAIGN

With billions of dollars each year being spent to develop Marcellus Shale gas in the region ACT has been promoting local hiring.

A new campaign called the Marcellus Principles is underway to get more support from local citizens, businesses and elected officials.

Many pipeline and gas processing facilities are using contractors that employ local workers, but there are still unemployed workers locally who need work and can do the jobs required.

ACT has been promoting

local hiring for the Marcellus Shale projects at the legislature and on television.

A commercial started early in 2011 promoting local hiring and more lately a campaign to adopt the "Marcellus Principles" has emerged.

The Marcellus Principles is a basic statement showing support for the Marcellus Shale exploration if it is done right.

That means using local workers and respecting our local communities.

Some Counties in both West Virginia and Ohio are passing their own resolutions in support of local workers.

Most recently Harrison and Ohio Counties, and the city of New Martinsville passed resolutions calling for companies to hire locally for their construction and other needs.

These public bodies are also calling on companies to contact them if they are having trouble finding the workers they need.

Harrison County Commissioners heard from gas industry officials opposed to the measure claiming they were being signaled out.

So the Commissioners changed the resolution to encourage local hiring for all industry sectors and passed it

out.

"We have a misperception that West Virginia workers are not capable of doing the many jobs related to Marcellus Shale extraction and processing," said Tom Gray, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades.

"Nothing could be further from the truth, we have the

best skills and can document drug and alcohol free status for thousands of workers in the region."

To find out more about the campaign, to see a complete list of government bodies who have passed resolutions or to sign on to the Marcellus Principle go to www.jobsforlocalworkers.com.

INSULATORS 80 JATC USE OPEN APPLICATION

The Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 80 JATC is having an open application process for entry into the Apprenticeship Program beginning Thursday, January 19, 2012 from 1:00-3:00 pm, and Friday, January 20 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Applications can be submitted on the last two Thursdays and Fridays of each month throughout the year.

There will be a \$25 application fee. Applications will be taken at the Local 80 Union Hall, 7901 State Route 34 in Winfield, WV.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a GED or High School Diploma, a valid driver's license and reside in one of the following counties

for the last 12 months.

In Ohio the counties of Gallia, Meigs, Washington, Jackson, Pike, Lawrence, or Scioto.

In Virginia the counties of Allegheny, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Craig, Dickenson, Flody, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington or Wythe.

In Kentucky – Bath, Carter, Floyd, Knott, Letcher, Martin, Owsley, Rowan, Boyd, Elliot, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, Menifee, Pike, Wolfe, Breathitt, Estill, Johnson, Lee, Magoffin, Morgan or Powell.

And in West Virginia –

Boone, Calhoun, Fayette, Jackson, Lincoln, Mason, Monroe, Pleasants, Raleigh, Roane, Webster, Wyoming, Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, Wirt, Wayne, Cabell, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Lewis, McDowell, Mingo, Pendleton, Putnam, Ritchie, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, Wood or Upshur.

The four year program teaches a variety of work tasks including the insulation of both industrial and commercial mechanical systems (i.e. piping, boilers, duct work, storage tanks) for the purpose of energy savings; burn protection; and to control system heat transfer and condensation.

All applications will be received without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

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Visit

www.jobsforlocalworkers.com

to support **local jobs** for **local workers** and sign the **Marcellus Principles.**



The Principles urge businesses to employ workers from the community to fill all industry jobs.