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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, *President* | Dave Efaw, *Secretary-Treasurer* | Steve White, *Director*

Black Rock Wind Permit Hearing Held at WV PSC

The State Public Service Commission (PSC) held a formal hearing on Wednesday, September 11 to receive testimony about the Black Rock Wind project.

The hearing, for a siting permit the project will need, was held in Charleston. A public hearing took place earlier this year.

ACT and the WV State Building Trades have intervened in support of the project.

One of the key considerations for the PSC regarding the siting permit is the economic impact from the project, including construction.

Project developer Clearway Energy and the North Central WV Building Trades have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement requiring construction contractors to use local union workers to build the project.

The MOA along with an economic impact study produced by Marshall University's Center for Business and Economic Research became impor-

tant evidence at the hearing.

"When you look at the impact from construction wages and benefits from a project like this you see the economic impact is significant when local construction workers, getting fair pay, are used," said Steve White, ACT Director.

White testified on behalf of the Trades during the hearing. Manpower numbers show approximately \$9.6 million in wages and benefits to be paid to construction workers.

In addition, the Marshall study showed the additional "spin-off" value from the construction work. That means local dollars spent in the local economy produce a greater benefit to the community.

During the hearing a long list of other permits from a variety of state and federal agencies were identified and will be required before the project can start. The project hopefully will begin mid-2020.

The project will cost around \$146

million and install 29 turbines in Grant and Mineral Counties. Each turbine has a potential to create around 4.8 megawatts meaning a combined output in the 140-megawatt range for the project.

Turbines will be purchased from manufacturer Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy.

Phase one of the project will be 23 turbines with an additional six to be installed at a later date. ■



At the PSC hearing in Charleston are Jim Cookman, (left) one of the development team for Black Rock; attorney Vince Trivelli, representing the WV State Building Trades and ACT; and Natalie Stone, Executive Director of the North Central WV Building Trades.

New SBA Rules Reward Bad Contractors

The West Virginia School Building Authority (SBA) voted to weaken long-standing responsible bidding criteria known as the "18 Points".

The vote took place on August 30, at the SBA offices in Charleston.

Over many years the SBA had developed a list of questions for bidders such as their performance on prior projects, any litigation they are involved in, their track record with regulatory agencies, their ability to hire local workers, their participation

in apprenticeship programs, etc.

The new policy eliminates some questions altogether, such as asking a contractor if they participate in an apprenticeship program and puts most of the questions into a yet to be written post-project report.

A draft version of the policy and procedure document had been distributed but there is some doubt as to what the final version contains.

Steve Burton, an SBA board member and former Business Manager of

the Tri-State Building Trades, argued against the changes and in particular the elimination of any question about apprenticeship training.

At a prior meeting it was agreed the Attorney General's office would be asked to review the 18 Points to see if any were improper or illegal to ask. However, at the meeting no such evaluation was presented.

Burton was told that an attorney at the AG's office said asking about apprenticeship would be hard to de-

fend. Burton strongly disagreed.

According to ACT's Steve White the policy change will punish contractors who play by the rules while rewarding shoddy contractors who cut corners on school construction.

"We don't understand why the SBA wouldn't continue the practice of asking about a contractor's track record before awarding a project," said White. "Some of the same questions might be asked in the future but

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\$8 million Renaissance Village Underway in McDowell, 100% Union Construction

Reconnecting McDowell, a partnership led by the American Federation of Teachers, held a groundbreaking ceremony for an \$8 million Renaissance Village housing project in Welch.

The event was held on Monday, September 9 and according to news reports represents the first multi-story construction project in the area in more than 50 years.

According to Paul Breedlove, Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades Council and a member of the Reconnecting McDowell board, BBL-Carlton from Charleston is the general contractor using all union subcontractors and building trades workers.

"We appreciate the leadership shown by our AFT teachers to get this project underway and their com-

mitment to a union-built job," said Breedlove.

The project is an effort to attract and retain teachers. The district has 22 vacant teaching positions and 50 teachers assigned to subjects outside of their specialty.

The lack of quality rental housing in the area was a problem for recruiting new teachers.

The building will have 16 apartments on two floors with two additional floors of retail and commercial space. ■

Insulators Local 80 Apprenticeship

PROGRAM NAME: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 80 JATC

WHERE TO APPLY: Any WorkForce WV office

WHEN TO APPLY: September 16th – November 1st, 2019

HOURS TO APPLY: Monday thru Thursday: 8:30 – 5:00, Friday: 9 - 5. Check your local WorkForce WV Office for TABE testing times.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

AGE: At least 18 years of age

EDUCATION: High School Diploma or equivalent

PHYSICAL: Must be physically able to perform the work of the trade, a drug test will be required

DRIVERS LICENSE: Must have a valid Driver's License

APTITUDE: Meet testing requirements administered by WorkForce WV

RESIDENCY: Must reside in one of the following counties at least one year prior to applying

Ohio: Gallia, Meigs, Washington, Jackson, Pike, Lawrence or Scioto

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.

Virginia: Allegheny, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Craig,

Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington or Wythe.

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.

DOCUMENTS: Certified Birth Certificate, Copy of High School Diploma or GED/TASC Certificate, copy of Valid Driver's License, Certified High School Transcript of Grades, must be mailed c/o JATC, P.O. Box 806, Winfield, WV 25213 and received no later than November 29, 2019.

DO NOT MAIL UNTIL AFTER YOU APPLY AND MEET TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

THE RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRAINING OF APPRENTICES SHALL BE WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SEX.

For more info contact (304) 586-4780. ■



A formal groundbreaking event was held in Welch on September 9 for the \$8 million Renaissance Village housing project. The project, which is already well underway, will provide rental housing for public school teachers. BBL-Carlton is the GC on the all union-built job.

Paden City Labor Day



Cavinson Mugaviri (left) and Brian Maragos, members of Insulators Local 2, carry their local banner during the Paden City Labor Day Parade.

Paden City is along the Ohio River in both Tyler and Wetzell Counties.

According to the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades President Eran Molz the Paden City event is one of the oldest Labor Day celebrations in the state and many crafts showed up to participate.

Building Trades Election, Conference Held

Chuck Parker of Operating Engineers Local 132 was elected as the new President of the WV State Building and Construction Trades Council at their September 11 Convention held in Charleston.

Parker replaces outgoing President Bill Hutchinson who retired earlier this year.

Parker will fill out the one year remaining in the four-year term.

The State Building Trades President, an unpaid position, is called upon to run monthly Executive Board Meetings, make committee assignments and to oversee the operations of the organization.

Parker takes on the duties in addition to his continued role as the Business Manager of Operating Engineers Local 132.

"I appreciate the confidence the

delegates have in me and look forward to serving as President," said Parker.

Parker had been selected by the Executive Board as interim President after Hutchinson's departure in June.

The State Building Trades has two elected positions, Dave Efav is the current Secretary-Treasurer and he remains in the third year of his four-year term.

Both positions will be up for election in 2020.

Each affiliated craft selects a person to be Vice-President on the State Building Trades Executive Board which meets monthly.

Each of the five local Building Trades Councils also get a seat on the Executive Board with a voice but no vote.

Also, at the convention delegates

talked about the upcoming political elections and heard from a few can-

didates for the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. ■



Kanawha County Judge Joanna Tabit speaks to delegates at the WV State Building & Construction Trades Council's conference in Charleston. Tabit is a candidate for the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Endorsements will be considered later this year.

Banned Company Gets State DEP Permit

IPI, Inc., a company banned from any federal and state government contracts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at an Elkview location has been approved for permits at a new location by the state Division of Environmental Protection (DEP).

IPI recently applied for a DEP permit to construct a facility to blast metal parts and paint them in the small community of Shrewsbury in Kanawha County.

The company has a disturbing environmental track record.

In the summer of 1998, IPI, Inc. while located at its Frame Road, Elkview location, violated the federal Clean Water Act while under contract with the WV DOH.

At that time the company, owned and operated by Matthew "Joey" Taylor, dumped paint, rust and waste sand into the Armstrong River while painting a Powellton-area bridge according to public filings.

The case was investigated by the WV Legislature's Commission on Special Investigations as well as the EPA and was so serious in nature that it triggered a mandatory federal debarment by the EPA. IPI Inc. is still

currently listed on the "active" debarment list with an indefinite end date. A company on the federal debarment list is automatically on the state debarment list meaning they can't be awarded publicly funded contracts.

Since the debarment is listed for the Frame Road facility alone, IPI was allowed to apply for this new permit for a new facility, and potentially work on federal and state contracts under this new location while still being banned at the Elkview site. During the comment period at DEP the Affiliated Construction Trades submitted public comments pointing out IPI's track record and asked if this new facility would be given closer regulatory scrutiny given its track record. DEP responded that normal protocols would be followed.

"It does not make sense to us that a company which is banned from federal and state contracts operating at one location can simply build a new facility and go back into operation," said Brian Stanley, a representative of Painters District Council 53.

"And if they are going to give them a permit you think they would increase the requirements to protect the public."

Stanley also points out that other companies owned by IPI's owners, Matthew "Joey" Taylor and Melissa Dawn Taylor, have a track record of workers compensation defaults. They were part owners of North American Inc., and North American Construction, Inc., both companies defaulted on workers compensation payments

and then shut down.

At the time workers compensation was run by the state and regulators got a ruling from a Kanawha County Judge holding IPI and the Taylors responsible for the debt. However, the WV Supreme Court overturned the ruling and let them off the hook for almost \$1 million. ■

Tri-State Labor Day



Tri-State Building Trades Council's Business Manager Mark Johnson hauled this 24-foot trailer in two events over Labor Day Weekend. According to Johnson a number of Trades participated in both the Portsmouth Ohio River Days Festival and the Catlettsburg, Kentucky Labor Day Parade. "There was a great turnout by all the crafts at both events," said Johnson.

NCWVBTC Thanks Mon Health Employees

Members of the North Central WV Building Trades Council distributed 1,800 cupcakes to employees of the Mon Health Medical Center (for-

merly Mon General).

The pre-Labor Day event took place on August 26 at the main Morgantown location.



Members of the North Central WV Building Trades Council (from left) Dave Morris, Council President; Natalie Stone; Rita McCrobie, Council Recording Secretary; Mike Jenkins, Carpenters; Bryan Raber, Plumbers & Pipefitters; and Jesse Stacey, Millwrights prepare to hand out cupcakes to 1,800 Mon Health employees as a thank you from the community.

Crafts also took cupcakes to satellite locations in the Morgantown area.

"We wanted to thank the employees for their hard work during tough times in the health care industry," said Natalie Stone, Executive Director of North Central.

"These folks are important to our community and we thought around

Labor Day would be a nice time to show our appreciation."

North Central also hit a milestone of their own by reaching the \$25,000 level of contributions to the hospital over many years.

"We try every year to donate what we can because our members depend on the hospital for themselves and their families," said Stone. ■

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Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 565, Parkersburg Celebrates 85th Anniversary



Special recognition was given to former UA Local 565 business agents (from left) Gary Yarnell, John Elliott, Randy Henderson, and Mark Harper by current Business Manager Brad Britton.

The recognition took place during the local's 85th anniversary celebration held in August.

New SBA Rules

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the SBA apparently won't ask them until a project is completed."

White says this is another attack against construction workers and contractors who play by the rules.

"The responsible bidder policies are meant to protect communities from low bidders who are bad performers," said White. "Contractors who do terrible work, underpay workers, violate laws and regulations and can't complete a project on-time hate to see responsible bidding rules."

Since legislative leaders repealed the state prevailing wage law West Virginia has seen a string of problems with new school construction.

The Chapmanville Intermediate

School in Logan County not only didn't open on time but is now in costly litigation between the contractor and the Board of Education.

The same general contractor recently had a subcontractor on a Jackson County school project operating with no workers compensation coverage, in default on their unemployment payments and had let their contractor's license lapse.

"There are more problems than ever with school projects such as delays and poor quality mostly driven by low wages while taxpayers are not seeing any savings," said White. "Our kids, their parents and the taxpayers deserve better." ■

Trades Members and Family Invited!

Marshall Football Tailgate Event

Saturday, October 12, tailgate starts 11:30 – game 2:30

Location to be determined near Stadium. Contact your local union for more info. Sponsored by the Tri-State Building Trades Council.