



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 'WV STATE BUILDING TRADES' - FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @WVSBT

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

Governor Justice Almost Kills \$950 Million Project

Governor Jim Justice, a few days prior to their August meeting, directed the state Economic Development Authority (EDA) to back out of a \$5.6 million loan guarantee for the \$950 million Brooke County Power project.

He later reversed his position when local political leaders, gas, business and labor drew attention to the many reasons his decision was wrong.

Bowing to pressure the Governor seemingly reversed his position and said he would let the EDA decide the issue. A special meeting was held on September 9 and the loan guarantee was approved.

Governor Justice's initial order to prevent the loan guarantee came within days of a scheduled August 20 meeting of the EDA where the loan guarantee was to be on the agenda.

The decision sent a shockwave through Brooke County.

Delegate Randy Swartzmiller hastily organized an event at the August 25 County Commission meeting to draw attention to the potential loss of thousands of good paying jobs.

"We have a signed agreement that is part of the official record," said ACT's Steve White at the meet-

ing. "The agreement guarantees local union workers will build this project."

At the meeting were Trades representatives Eran Molz, Operating Engineers Local 132 representative and President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades and Bengy Swanson, Co-Chair of Project BEST.

"We thanked the Commission for their support of the project and used the meeting to rally the troops

and push back against Governor Justice's decision to kill the project," said Molz.

"We also thanked Randy [Swartzmiller] who asked for this to be on the agenda and alerted us to the problem," said Molz.

Bengy Swanson, Ironworkers Local 549 Business Manager also spoke on behalf of Project BEST where he is Co-Chair. "We [BEST] fully support

the Brooke County Power project because it will employ local workers and local subcontractors."

The project payroll for construction workers is huge, approximately \$100 million in wages and benefits.

The additional impact on the economy is also huge, from others involved in construction, the jobs running the plant, supplying the gas,

Cont. on p. 3>>



Standing up for local construction workers outside the Brooke County Courthouse are (from left) Dan Cassidy, Insulators Local 2; Eric Nutter, IBEW 246; Bengy Swanson, Ironworkers 549 and Project BEST; Bill Davis, IBEW 246; Randy Swartzmiller, Candidate for Senate and current House of Delegates member; DJ Eddy, Painters DC 53; Doug Giffin, IBEW 141; and Jeff Niely, Laborers 809.

Raleigh Solar 1 & Trades Sign Agreement

Raleigh Solar 1, LLC and the Charleston Building & Construction Trades Council signed an agreement guaranteeing local union construction workers would build the project, if it gets built.

Raleigh Solar is the developer for the \$90 million, 90-megawatt solar field in Beckley. They started the permit process in June at the WV Public Service Commission.

The actual power output would be

less than the 90-megawatts "nameplate" capacity. The number is derived from a theoretical maximum capacity of the equipment and does not take into account nighttime, cloudy weather, and other conditions

that will lower the output significantly.

Dakota Power Partners, based in Colorado, is the company behind Raleigh Solar.

Cont. on p. 4>>

WVU, Carpenters, Building Trades Sign Apprenticeship Degree Agreement

When apprentice Carpenters in West Virginia complete their training, they will soon earn not only a Journeyman's Certificate from the US DOL, they will also get an Associate's Degree through WVU.

Two agreements were signed on August 27 to start the degree program for the Carpenters and open the door for all craft related apprenticeship programs to do the same.

"We are excited about this partnership with WVU because it will add value to our apprenticeship program," said Jeremy Jeffers, Training Director for the WV Carpenters Apprenticeship Programs.

WVU President Gordon Gee kicked off the virtual signing event complimenting all participants for their efforts.

"This is a spectacular program ... I want to thank everyone on this call and everyone who has worked hard to make this possible," said Gee. "It is going to be a real game changer for both the University and for the state."

Credit towards a degree program has been available to apprentices for many years through a variety of Community Colleges. However, the

number of credit hours has always been significantly short of the 60 credit hours needed for an Associate's Degree.

"By adjusting our curriculum and adding some required material, and by WVU looking closer at what we teach, especially the on-the-job training, we were able to close the gap," said Jeffers.

Jeffers credits WVU professor Sam White with leading the effort. White, a professor at WVU's Institute for Labor Studies and Research, has led an ad-hoc group of apprenticeship coordinators in discussions about a variety of topics for several years.

"Apprentice coordinators have repeatedly expressed frustration with being unable to get degrees for their apprentices, so we decided to take another look at the process," said White.

The virtual signing event, held on Thursday, August 27, put two agreements in place.

First was an agreement between the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters and WVU outlining the expectations and re-

quirements of the degree program. Apprentices will be enrolled at the WVU Keyser campus, but their training will continue as usual at carpenter training locations in Parkersburg, Bridgeport and South Charleston, as well as on-the-job locations across the state.

The second agreement was with the WV State Building and Construction Trades Council.

According to ACT's Steve White the Memorandum of Understanding

with the Building Trades sets out the general parameters for any craft to become involved with the program.

White emphasized there is no requirement any apprenticeship program use WVU, the program is entirely voluntary.

"WVU has found a smart way to close the gap which was preventing apprentices from getting a degree," said White. "We hope other higher education institutions will take notice and do the same." ■



WVU President Gordon Gee kicks off the virtual signing event between WVU, the Carpenters, and the WV State Building Trades on a new associates degree program.

Parkersburg-Marietta Trades Raise \$5,000 at their 17th Annual DAD's Day Clay Shoot

Maybe a bit late, but the Parkersburg-Marietta annual DAD's Day event still netted more than \$5,000 this year.

DAD's is short for Dollars Against Diabetes, a long-term charitable effort led by North America's Building Trades to fund diabetes research. Events are usually held around Father's Day each year.

According to Buddy Malone, Business Manager of the Council, 23 shooters participated and 13 organizations sponsored the event which was held at Hilltop Sports LLC in Whipple, Ohio.

"We debated whether to postpone

this year but decided we could have the event, social distance as needed, and give everyone an opportunity to enjoy a day among friends," said Malone. "I am glad we did; good people, good food, good time and a great cause."

Sponsors included: Worley; ACT OH/OH State Building Trades; WV State Building Trades/ACT WV; Parkersburg Area Labor Council; UA Local 565; UA Local 168; United Bank; Davis Pickering; Ironworkers 787; Parkersburg-Marietta Contractors Association; Ruble Insurance Agency; Polymer Alliance Zone and Boilermakers 667. ■



Members of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council (from left) Brad Winans and Doug Miller of Ironworkers 787; participate in the 17th annual DAD's Day Sporting Clay Shoot held on Saturday, August 29.

'20 Endorsements

Bold = Building Trades member

1st Congressional District

David McKinley (R)

Governor

Ben Salango (D)

State Treasurer

John Perdue (D)

Attorney General

Sam Petsonk (D)

Secretary of State

Natalie Tennant (D)

State Auditor

Mary Ann Claytor (D)

Agriculture Commissioner

Bob Beach (D)

State Senate

1st Randy Swartzmiller (D)

2nd Josh Gary (D)

3rd Robin Wilson (D)

4th No Action

5th Bob Plymale (D)

7th No Action

8th **Glenn Jeffries (D)**

9th David 'Bugs' Stover (R)

10th Bill Laird (D)

11th Denise Campbell (D)

12th Doug Facemire (D)

13th Mike Caputo (D)

14th David Childers (D)

16th Pete Dougherty (D)

17th Andrew Robinson (D)

House of Delegates

1st Pat McGeehan (R)

Jack Wood (D)

2nd **Phillip Diserio (D)**

3rd Shawn Fluharty (D)

Erikka Storch (R)

4th Christian Turak (D)

Lisa Zukoff (D)

5th Dave Pethtel (D)

8th Andrew Alvarez (D)

10th Vernon Criss (R)

Trish Pritchard (D)

Luke Winters (D)

11th Mark Pauley (D)

13th **Scott Brewer (D)**

14th Chris Yeager (D)

15th Tess Jackson (D)

16th Mark Bates (R)

Sean Hornbuckle (D)

17th Chad Lovejoy (D)

Matthew Rohrbach (R)

18th No Action

19th Ric Griffith (D)

David Thompson (D)

20th Nathan Brown (D)

21st Mark Dean (R)

22nd Joe Jeffries (R)

Zack Maynard (R)

23rd Rodney Miller (D)

24th Susan Perry (D)

Timothy Tomblin (D)

25th Tony Paynter (R)

26th Ed Evans (D)

27th Tina Russell (D)

28th Ryne Nahodi (D)

30th Mick Bates (D)

31st Chris Toney (R)

32nd Mark Hurt (D)

Margaret Staggers (D)

34th Brent Boggs (D)

35th Kathy Ferguson (D)

Doug Skaff Jr. (D)

Rusty Williams (D)

Kayla Young (D)

36th Jim Barach (D)

Amanda Estep-Burton (D)

Larry Rowe (D)

37th Mike Pushkin (D)

38th Nikki Ardman (D)

39th No Action

41st Duane Bragg (D)

42nd Cindy Lavender-Bowe (D)

Jeff Campbell (D)

43rd Bill Hartman (D)

Cody Thompson (D)

44th Robin Cutlip (D)

46th Bob Stultz (D)

47th Ed Larry (D)

48th Ryan Deems (D)

Robert Garcia (D)

Richard Iaquina (D)

Josh Maxwell (D)

49th Mike Mannypenny (D)

50th Michael Angelucci (D)

Joey Garcia (D)

No Action between Ron

Straight (D) & Guy Ward (R)

51st Barbara Fleischauer (D)

Evan Hansen (D)

Rodney Pyles (D)

Danielle Walker (D)

John Williams (D)

52nd Junior "JR" Wolfe (D)

53rd Cory Chase (D)

55th Jarod Shockey (D)

58th George Miller (R)

60th Brad Noll (D)

61st Jason Barrett (D)

62nd Debi Carroll (D)

63rd Daniel Bennett (D)

65th Sammi Brown (D)

66th Storme Frame (D)

67th John Doyle (D)

\$950 Million Project

Continued from Page 1

maintaining the plant and the taxes paid.

Outside the meeting were other craft representatives showing support for the \$950 million project.

Governor Justice was asked about his decision to kill the project the next day at an August 26 press conference.

He claimed he didn't want to kill the project but had many questions which led to his decision.

One of the questions he had was whether local construction workers would build the project.

"That's the same argument the group funded by Murray Energy used when trying to stop the project at the PSC," said White. "They ignore the signed agreement and act like having a few people from across the border is terrible," said White. "There is no group more active in demanding local workers than the Trades and to say you are concerned there won't be local workers when we have a deal just makes no sense."

Energy Solutions Consortium, the

developers of Brooke County Power, has been working on the project for years and had been working with the EDA for months on the loan guarantee.

The project has encountered many delays including a permit challenge by a group called the Ohio Valley Jobs Coalition who admitted they were funded by Murray Energy, a coal company that supplies steam coal to electric power plants.

After losing their permit challenge at the state Public Service Commission the group appealed to the WV Supreme Court.

While they lost their case, the appeal cost the project many months of delay.

"It's seldom talked about in the press, but the coal industry has been fighting gas projects for a number of years," said White.

"Killing gas projects in West Virginia will hurt our communities and help Ohio and Pennsylvania get more projects, but it won't help the coal industry." ■



Delegate Phil Diserio (D-Brooke) places a yard sign as he campaigns for re-election to the WV House of Delegates. Diserio is also a member of IBEW Local 246 and has been a staunch defender of working families while serving in the legislature.

Absentee Ballot Application is Online, Starting September 18 Ballots Mailed

Friday, September 18 is the start of voting for many who have requested an absentee ballot. That is when county clerks will begin to mail ballots to those who have sent in a request.

Anyone who is registered to vote and wants to vote by mail for the upcoming 2020 General Election can now easily apply online for an absentee ballot.

At the website govotewv.com you can enter your request. Note: Internet Explorer 10 Web Browser is currently not supported.

For this election anyone who wants an absentee ballot can get one. In the past you had to have a specific reason like being unable to get to a polling place.

Most voters will not get absentee ballot applications automatically in the mail like they did in the primary. Only a few counties are sending applications to all voters.

Starting September 18 county clerks will start mailing ballots to those who have applied. Absentee ballots can be requested thru October 28, but it is strongly advised not to wait until the last minute.

Toyota Builds Solar Project in Putnam

Union trades workers are building a new solar power project at Toyota Motors Manufacturing in Putnam County.

The six-acre site will generate about 2.6 megawatts of electricity, around 10 percent of the plants peak usage according to news reports.

“We understand a company called Holt Renewables out of Texas is in charge of the job, but they appear to be hiring all local subcontractors to perform the construction,” said Paul Breedlove, Business Manager for the Charleston Building & Construction Trades Council.

The \$4.9 million solar field is part of Toyota’s overall effort to reduce

Members of the trades, who often must work far from home, are being encouraged to use the absentee ballot.

“We sent information to all of our active members about how to get the absentee ballot online,” said Brad Winans, Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 787, Parkersburg.

Winans tested the site personally and said it was quick and easy to use.

According to Winans you put in your name, date of birth, and county to get started. You then enter the last four digits of your social security number.

You are given four options for requesting the ballot, the first is “COVID-19/Other” and includes a variety of issues.

“There are plenty of reasons to ask for the absentee ballot,” said Winans. “Being far from home is one. But this year anyone can use the COVID reason.”

You then confirm your mailing address and sign online to complete the application.

Voters can also download the form, fill it in, and mail it to their

emissions.

The project could be the largest solar field in the state.

However numerous larger projects are in the development phase such as the 90 megawatts Raleigh Solar project in Beckley.

According to Breedlove two Putnam County contractors are involved, Raynes & Sons Excavation is doing site work and Nitro Construction Services will build the solar array.

“Toyota has been a great job creator for local union construction workers, and we appreciate their continued use of local workers and contractors,” said Breedlove. ■

county clerk, or call their clerk and ask that an application be mailed to them. It may take a few days or even a few weeks for the application to be processed so voters are encouraged to get their applications in early.

October 13 is the final day to reg-

ister to vote or to make changes to your voter registration like a change of address.

Early voting begins on October 21 and will continue until October 31. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. ■



Like Us on Facebook!
“WV State Building Trades”



Follow us on Twitter!
@WVSBT

Affiliated Construction Trades

600 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 345-7570
www.actwv.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 1374
Charleston, WV 25301

Raleigh Solar

Continued from Page 1

The Memorandum of Agreement between the Trades and Raleigh Solar was signed on August 19. Since the project is in the early stages of development the agreement is not a project labor agreement but rather a commitment to reach a PLA at the proper time.

“The agreement says that when the project has a general contractor we will negotiate a project labor agreement which must include the going wage rates and benefit packages in local contracts of Building Trades affiliates,” said Paul Breedlove, Business Manager for the Charleston Building Trades.

“We look forward to building the project and will assist the developer getting it through the process in any way we can.”

On September 1 the project reached another milestone.

The Raleigh County Commission approved a tax plan regarding property tax payments.

The state PSC is scheduled to take testimony for the project’s siting certificate at a hearing in Charleston on September 18.

ACT and the WV State Building Trades have intervened in support of the project and will provide testimony about the MOA and about the positive economic impact local construction hiring will have on the economy.

The project would use around 530 acres off Grandview Road in Beckley. A high voltage line currently runs through the center of the proposed site where there is an adjacent substation.

According to the project website the solar array could be operational in late 2022 or early 2023. ■