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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.

Charleston - (304) 345-7570
Toll Free - (800) 930-9675
www.actwv.org



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\$500 MILLION DOMINION PROJECT

TRADES TRAVEL TO HOUSTON, TX

Representatives from the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades, Project Best and ACT went to Houston, Texas to meet with CB&I Lummas officials regarding the construction of a \$500 million plant in Marshall County.

Their goal was to get a commitment from CB&I to use local workers and pay the wages and benefits normally paid in the region.

The effort did not succeed. According to those in attendance the meeting was cordial and much valuable information was shared by both sides.

But when it came to a commitment CB&I was unwilling.

"We bid it Merit Shop and that's how we have to build it," said Kevin Smith, Group Vice President, Construction with CB&I.

Dominion Resource announced in August it had hired nonunion CB&I Lum-

mas to build its gas separation facility.

CB&I Lummas is a division of the international construction company CB&I, formerly called Chicago Bridge and Iron.

The plant will be built in two phases, each phase will

have a processing capacity of 200 million cubic feet of gas per day.

Chesapeake Energy has a contract to send 100 million cubic feet of gas per day to the facility according to news reports.

Approximately 600 con-

struction workers will be needed for both phases with the project completion date set for the end of 2013.

According to CB&I officials an estimated 1.4 million manhours will be used on the project. Much of the

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IN HOUSTON DISCUSSING the \$500 million Dominion project are (from left) Marty Stanton, Boilermakers; Tom Gray, Laborers and President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council, Orphy Klempa, Carpenters and Project Best; Kevin Smith, Group Vice President, Dave Donnelly, Senior VP and Michael Day, Director Construction Services, CB&I Lummas.

FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE CUTS MIGHT COST WV 5,000 JOBS

Proposed major cuts to federal infrastructure spending spell significant job losses for West Virginia workers.

Current transportation legislation expires at the end of September and proposals from the Republican controlled House of Representatives include deep cuts in future spending.

Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Vir-

ginia State Building Trades participated in a press conference on Wednesday, September 7 to sound the alarm.

"According to the Federal Highway Administration West Virginia could lose \$141 million in annual infrastructure funding and 5,000 good-paying jobs if the House legislation becomes law," said Efaw.

The House of Representatives proposal, led by the controlling Republicans, calls for

a 35 percent cut to transportation funding for the next six years.

Representative Nick Joe Rahall, who is the ranking Democrat on the House Transportation Committee, has come out strongly against the proposed cuts in transportation funding and in support for a two-year plan that keeps federal support at current levels.

A recent report by the American Society of Civil

Engineers shows 39 percent of West Virginia's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Larry Matheney, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia AFL-CIO, said, "The AFL-CIO recognizes the country has a deficit issue.

But jobs are the solution.

"Reducing the number of workers in this state and the country is the wrong thing to do," Matheney said.

ELECTION OCT. 4, EARLY VOTING SEPT. 21

WV AFL-CIO ENDORSES EARL RAY TOMBLIN FOR SPECIAL GOVERNORS ELECTION

The WV AFL-CIO has endorsed acting Governor Earl Ray Tomblin for Governor in the upcoming Special Election.

The action took place on September 1 at a meeting of the groups Committee on Political Education (COPE).

The Special Election will be held on Saturday, October 4 and will determine who fills in for the year left in former Governor Joe Manchin's term.

Next year there will be a new election for the regular full four year term of Governor.

The choice this October is between Tomblin (D-Logan) and Republican challenger and political newcomer Bill Maloney.

COPE, made up of representatives from each affiliated Internationals Union as

well as State and Local Councils, spent time interviewing Tomblin.

Since Maloney did not fill out the required candidate questionnaire he was not interviewed.

Tomblin repeated his pledge made to the Trades not to promote changes to hurt prevailing wage laws and not to push the anti-union Right-to-Work law.

The group acknowledged Tomblin had not been a major supporter of organized labor but credited him with an open door policy and a willingness to give labor a seat at the table.

"This election comes down to two candidates," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

"We firmly believe we can work with Governor Tomblin, but we recognize we have

some differences."

"With Maloney we believe we will be in turmoil."

Early voting starts on September 21 and continues through

October 1.

"It is very important our members get out and vote," said Efaw. "The voter turnout is expected to be very low

and we need to do our part."

The State Building Trades had already taken action to endorse Tomblin at their July Executive Board meeting.



ACTING GOVERNOR Earl Ray Tomblin (standing right) is interviewed at the WV AFL-CIO's State COPE meeting held on September 1. Tomblin received the Labor endorsement for the Special Election for Governor to be held October 4.

MARSHALL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PASS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL WORKERS

Marshall County Commissioners have gone on record in support of creating jobs for local workers and businesses related to Marcellus Shale gas extraction.

In a unanimous vote held on August 30 Commissioners Jason Padlow, Donald Mason, and Brian Shambach passed a resolution calling for "the employment of local workers and contractors to the maximum extent possible

for the construction of facilities utilized in drilling, transporting and processing the gas..."

The resolution also notes the many jobs being created by the Marcellus Shale gas boon and the need to harvest the resources in a responsible way.

The Commission asked companies engaged in all

phases of the Marcellus Shale activities to notify the Com-

mission if they find a lack of qualified workers or contractors.

Marshall County has become one of the centers of

activities with many wells being drilled, truck traffic and related activity.

Dominion Resource's new \$500 million gas processing facility will be built in the county as well.

Keith Hughes, Business Manager of Iron Workers 549 was on hand when the action was taken.

"I commend these Commissioners for stating a clear position in support of local workers and contractors," said Hughes.

"And I like that they asked companies to notify them if they needed skilled workers, it shows a willingness to get involved."

In June the Wetzel County Commission, in response to an Alabama construction firm, stated they preferred companies use local workers rather than import them.

"AND I LIKE THAT THEY ASKED COMPANIES TO NOTIFY THEM IF THEY NEEDED SKILLED WORKERS..." KEITH HUGHES, BUSINESS MANAGER, IRON WORKERS 549

\$30 MILLION, 233-UNITS

CARPENTERS WANT LOCAL WORKERS AT MORGANTOWN APARTMENT PROJECT

Members of the Carpenters took to the streets in Morgantown to let the public know local workers were not getting jobs at a major construction project.

The protests started in late August and continued into September. Members of IBEW 596 also participated.

Beech View Place Apartments, a 233-unit student living complex is being built next to the downtown campus of WVU.

The \$30 million project will include 350 underground parking spaces and 14,000 square feet of retail space. Six floors are above grade and two below.

The project is co-owned by three partners, Developer's Tom Janidas and Joe Cuervo, and Pittsburgh Steelers football player James Harrison.

A PA company Medco Commercial Management Group, owned by the devel-

opers, is in charge of the construction.

A few crafts are getting small portions of the job but the majority is going to PA subcontractors. The concrete was done by Precision Concrete out of Georgia, the electrical by Westmoreland Electric Inc. of PA.

After the protests started unfair labor practice charges were filed against the Carpenters. However the National Labor Relations Board has dismissed all charges.

In March of 2010 the Morgantown City Council approved rezoning the two acre site for a mixed-use, residential and commercial, development district.

City leaders claimed the project was made possible because of investments made by the city and WVU into the Sunnyside District and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

According to news reports Beech View Place is part of the Sunnyside TIF district

which was created in 2008.

A TIF district uses the projected increase in property tax revenue created by developing the area to assist in paying for the development and/or redevelopment of the area.

New sidewalks, repaired curbs and energy-efficient streetlights along Grant Avenue cost about \$1.2 million, and were paid for through the TIF fund.

"Local taxpayers helped make this project happen by

allowing property tax dollars to go towards infrastructure but when it came to the jobs it turns out people who never invested a dime get most of the benefits," said Morgantown resident and Carpenter Council leader Mark Estlack.



MEMBERS OF THE Carpenters let the public know the Beech View Place project in Morgantown, made possible with local Tax Increment Financing, ended up creating jobs for out-of-state companies and workers.

HOUSTON

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

work will be done by CB&I themselves but there will be some significant subcontracts including site preparation, a combined electrical and instrumentation package, and pipe insulation.

Mid-September is the start date.

"They said they wanted to hire local people, and that our wages were not the problem, they just don't want to pay our fringe package," said

Tom Gray, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades.

"We talked about our skill levels, productivity, commitment to successful projects and the positive track record we have had in the area."

While the company was unwilling to pay a full fringe package they did say they planned to pay travel and lodging subsidies to travelers.

They also plan to have an incentive pay plan to retain workers to the job through completion.

"When you compare the travel and lodging pay and the retention bonus I can't see how we are that far apart," said Orphy Klempa, Service Representative for the Carpenters.

"The Marcellus industry as a whole has spent a lot of advertising dollars telling the public how many jobs they create, but jobs for people in Texas don't do us much good here in West Virginia."

Since the meeting Trades representatives have been meeting to come up with

ways to get as much of the work as possible.

Unofficial reports have Mascaro Corporation, a union contractor from Pittsburgh, as the low bid for the site preparation contract.

Selection of a piling contractor is expected soon.

"If they do import hundreds of workers to take the jobs this region needs we are prepared to use whatever legal means we have at our disposal to expose it," said Steve White, ACT Director.

"Our first move will be

to appeal to the public who expects jobs to go to local workers as long as they are qualified.

And we are perfectly qualified for this type of work."

ACT Report Address Corrections Wanted

Call: 1-800-930-9675
 Email: stevewhite@actwv.org
 or mail to:
 ACT
 600 Leon Sullivan Way
 Charleston, WV 25301

266 UNION WORKERS AT PEAK

WIND PROJECT CREATES LOCAL JOBS

The Pinnacle Wind Farm will soon harvest wind in Mineral County, West Virginia.

The Pinnacle project is a wind farm located along the top of Green Mountain, southwest of Keyser. Construction has been well under way, and 14 of the 23 turbines have been completely installed.

Local union construction

workers have been on the job since construction began in April. US Windforce, the developer of the project, committed early on to use local labor.

They ended up selling the project to Edison Mission Energy but made sure the labor commitment stayed in place.

In March the North Central WV Building Trades signed a final agreement with the general contractor on the \$131 million job.

A total of 133,322 hours of manpower have been logged from all workers involved in the project as of early this month. In the early

central Building and Construction Trades Council. "We also appreciate that all parties involved have upheld the commitment US Wind Force made to hire local construction workers."

White Construction is the general contractor for the project called the Pinnacle

Wind Farm at New Page. White also served as general contractor on the Beech Ridge project in Greenbrier

"TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE EVERY WIND PROJECT IN WEST VIRGINIA HAS BEEN UNION,"
RICHARD CARDER, BUSINESS MANAGER, IBEW LOCAL 307

stages, there were only 30 to 50 workers. As the project ramped up, it peaked with 266 workers.

"We appreciate that US Wind Force recognized the hard work, talent and dedication of our local workers," said Natalie Stone, Executive Director of the North Cen-

County.

Turbines started getting installed in late July, and all deliveries to the project site were completed in late August.

The current schedule shows the installation of the turbines to be completed in late September, depending on

the weather.

When completed, it will generate about 55 megawatts of electricity, enough electricity for 14,000 homes annually.

All of the power generated at the wind farm will enter the electric grid through an existing transmission line on

an agreement with the building trades for this job.

"To the best of my knowledge every wind project in West Virginia has been union," Carder said. "And not every state can say that. It's great to see our local members employed on this project."

ACT Foundation
 600 Leon Sullivan Way
 Charleston, WV 25301
 (304) 345-7570

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WORKERS PLACE CONCRETE at for the base of a turbine at the 23 wind turbine Pinnacle Wind Farm project in Mineral County. Each tower base required 350 cubic yards of concrete.

the property.

Richard Carder, Business Manager of IBEW Local 307, in Cumberland said about 30 electrical workers have been employed on the project. He said US Wind Force deserves to be recognized for reaching

US Wind Force began land acquisition in West Virginia for the project about 10 years ago. After bringing the project to the start of construction, US Wind Force sold the project to Edison Mission Energy.

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 (304) 344-0194 fax 344-0195
 toll free 1 877 593-6093

reception@uniontradesfcu.com