

THE ACT REPORT

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The ACT Foundation is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council. Steve Burton, President; Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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



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Trades Uncover Asbestos Violations

Members of the Operating Engineers and Laborers Union have uncovered dangerous violations of state and federal laws regarding asbestos at a Greenbrier County construction site.

Lynch Construction was performing demolition work in White Sulphur Springs when workers on the job noticed what appeared to be transite being removed from an old cooling tower.

A sample was taken to a laboratory and showed high concentrations of deadly asbestos.

Workers for Lynch were also observed using chop saws to cut what looked like asbestos insulation from piping so the piping could be sold for scrap.

"That a man would be sent to breath deadly asbestos just so a contractor can make a few cents selling scrap is criminal," said Rodney Marsh, Organizer for Operating Engineers Local 132.

To make matters worse the demolition site, the former Hanover Shoe Building, is across the street from an elementary school.

Marsh put a flyer together to alert community members about the risks posed by asbestos.

He also called on the State Health Department and Division of Environmental Protection, both have regulatory oversight on as-

bestos removal and disposal.

State officials quickly shut the job down and are currently investigating the case.

Marsh also asked the regulators to look into where the deadly material was dumped.

"They just hauled it out in an open truck, driving through the center of town," Marsh said.

Research by the ACT Foundation uncovered preliminary ap-

proval in April for a \$690,000 loan from the state Economic Development Authority. The loan was to The K Group, LLC., which will lease the facility to HCV Imaging. Both K Group and HCV are based in Roanoke, VA and owned by the same people.

"This is not the kind of activity our tax dollars should go to," said Marsh.



DEADLY ASBESTOS WAS illegally removed from this building by Lynch Construction of White Sulphur Springs. The demolition took place right next to the White Sulphur Springs Elementary School.

Toyota Uses Union Construction Workers For \$120 Million Expansion

Toyota has begun work on a new "ZR" engine line addition to their production plant located at Buffalo, WV.

The addition is part of a \$120 million expansion announced last year.

The project will mean an additional 500,000 man-hours of work for local union construction workers.

That's because the project will be worked under the exist-

ing agreement developed between Toyota and the Charleston Building Trades Council back in 1996.

"On April 19 we signed an addendum to our long standing agreement with Toyota to cover this new work," said Mike Matthews, Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades.

The expansion will be on the south side of the plant and include approximately 150,000 square feet of new space.

The expansion will house a new ZR four cylinder engine plant and will upgrade the transmission plant

that is currently under construction.

The project will also add another 150 production jobs to the plant for an overall total of 1,150.

Work is currently being done at the plant on a new transmission line which will go into production this year.

Site work has already begun for the expansion and completion is scheduled for early 2007.

Bidding for the foundation work is underway with the major construction phase soon to follow.

With this project it is estimated

that union construction workers will have worked more than 4 million hours on Toyota's West Virginia facility since 1996.

The new project will be the sixth major project at the Putnam County location and represents a total investment of almost \$1 billion.

"Toyota has made a solid commitment to West Virginia and the Trades which we appreciate," said Matthews.

"And they always emphasize quality, and demand strict enforcement of safety rules."

HEARINGS HELD ON PENDLETON AND GREENBRIER COUNTY PROJECTS

Plenty of Air About Windmills

Public hearings were held for windmill projects in Greenbrier and Pendleton Counties recently.

In Greenbrier County, hundreds of people attended two public hearings to voice their opinions on the installation of a 124-turbine Beech Ridge Wind Farm proposed for northern Greenbrier County.

The public hearings were held by the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC) in Lewisburg on April 25.

ACT Representative Wayne Rebich, along with Mike Matthews of the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council, helped organize supporters from the Trades. According to Matthews members from the Carpenters, Operators, Electricians, Laborers, and Cement Masons attended the event. Some retirees were

there also.

An agreement was reached and signed in February, between the Charleston Building Trades and the project developer Invenegy LLC to hire local union workers on the \$300 million project that's awaiting PSC approval.

Matthews said he made it a point to speak on behalf of the local workers who supported the project but couldn't be there.

He also explained the Council represented 14 international construction unions, with 11,000 workers in 18 southern West Virginia counties.

The trade's message focused on jobs. According to an economic impact report done on behalf of ACT, the project's 215 construction jobs during the nine-month building phase will create an additional 104 jobs in other sectors of the community.

"To dismiss our jobs as temporary is an insult," said Rebich.

"Every construction job ends, yet I raised my family working them."

"These jobs will put millions of dollars into paychecks for local construction workers," According to ACT's report con-

struction workers would earn around \$7 million building the project. In addition, the project – from deliveries to taxes – could generate as much as \$104 million in local economic activity.

Critics of the project ignored the job prospects for local construction workers claiming there was little or no economic benefit to the community.

Continued on p. 4



MIKE MATTHEWS (front, center) of the Charleston Building Trades waits for his turn to speak at the PSC public hearing held in Greenbrier County. Matthews and other Trades members supported the \$300 million wind turbine project.

2006 Primary Results For Labor Candidates

The May primary election is over.

Below are the results for Labor supported candidates as of the day after election, when the ACT Report went to the press.

Three labor backed candidates are in very close races that are still being reviewed. Fred Parker, 10th Senate; Lidella Hrutkay, 19th House; Tom Louisos, 29th House.

UNITED STATES SENATE

Robert C. Byrd ✓

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st - Alan B. Mollohan ✓

2nd - ~~Mark Hunt~~

3rd - Nick Joe Rahall, II ✓

SENATE

1st - Edwin J. Bowman ✓

2nd - Larry J. Edgell ✓

4th - Jim Lees ✓

6th - H. Truman Chafin ✓

7th - ~~Josh Stowers~~

8th - Erik Wells ✓

10th - Frederick L. Parker ✓

11th - C. Randy White ✓

12th - Joseph Minard ✓

17th - Brooks McCabe, Jr. ✓

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

1st - Joe DeLong ✓

2nd - Jack Yost ✓

3rd - Orphy Klempa ✓

4th - Kenneth Tucker ✓

7th - ~~John Bumgardner~~

9th - Jim Marion ✓

10th - John Ellem ✓

Steven D. Whitehair, Sr. ✓

13th - Dale F. Martin ✓

Brady R. Paxton ✓

14th - Gene Estel ✓

15th - Jim Morgan ✓

~~Matthew James Woelfel,~~

Pam Carden ✓

16th - Dale Stephens ✓

17th - Don Perdue ✓

Richard Thompson ✓

18th - Larry W. Barker ✓

19th - Jeff Eldridge ✓

Lidella Wilson Hrutkay ✓

~~Ronnie Ooten,~~

Ralph Rodighiero ✓

21st - Harry Keith White ✓

22nd - Mike Burdiss ✓

23rd - Clifton Moore ✓

24th - ~~Molly Lohr-Robinette~~

25th - ~~Anita Skeens~~

~~Caldwell,~~ Paige Flanigan ✓

27th - Melvin R. "Mell" Kessler ✓

Kevin L. Maynus ✓

~~Glyde D McKnight Jr.~~

28th - ~~Fommy Searles,~~

Ray Canterbury ✓

29th - Tom Louisos ✓

30th - ~~Bob T. Anderson,~~ Ted

Boettner, Bonnie Brown ✓

Nancy Guthrie ✓

Barbara Hatfield ✓

Sharon Spencer ✓

Danny Wells ✓

31st - Carrie Webster ✓

34th - Brent Boggs ✓

35th - Sam Argento ✓

36th - Joe Talbott ✓

39th - Bill Hamilton ✓

40th - Mary M. Poling ✓

41st - ~~Anthony J. Barberio,~~

Ron Fragale ✓ Richard J.

laquinto ✓ Tim Miley ✓

43rd - Mike Caputo ✓ Linda

Longstreth ✓ Tim Manchin ✓

44th - Barbara Fleischauer ✓

Charlene Marshall ✓

Alex Shook ✓

46th - ~~Chris Cooper~~

50th - Ruth Rowan ✓

53rd - Jerry Burton ✓

54th - Walter Duke ✓

58th - Locke Wysong ✓

Marietta's New Rental Store Builds Union

Construction is complete on a new 90,000 square foot building for Leasco Equipment Services using union labor.

The industrial equipment rental, sales and service company, is located on Route 7 south of Marietta, Ohio.

The building has 60,000 square feet of metal storage and an additional 30,000 square feet of office, service and retail space. It was built to replace their current facility which was across the street.

The company, owned by Mark Hall of Marietta, currently has locations in Marietta and Williamstown, WV.

"We work very closely with the unions," said Mark Hall, owner of Leasco.

According to Charlie Hall, Mark's dad, Leasco used a

number of union contractors on their project including J.M. Jackson, Pioneer Pipe, Tri-State Roofing & Sheetmetal, Morrison, American Star Painting, Grae-Con Construction, and others.

"They went out of their way to hire local people and to use local signatory contractors, which put our people to work," said Sam Davis, Business Manager of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades. "We appreciate that."

The work started in 2005 and the building was ready for occupancy at the beginning of this month.

Founded in 1989, Leasco rents a large variety of equipment, such as welders, air compressors, large booms and lifts to local contractors.

It also sells supplies like masks and safety glasses.

"While they are a local company, they have supplied the equipment to contractors from all over the country that have come to the area over the years," said Davis.

Sometimes people give back. The project had been ongoing for several months and has utilized over one hundred workers all together.

"You got to take care of the

people that have taken care of you," said Charlie Hall, former owner of Power Maintenance in Marietta, which was a union contractor. "It's only right that we use union labor."



LEASCO'S NEW BUILDING needs a few finishing touches to be complete. They are currently open for business, for more information call toll free at 1-888-3LEASCO.

Two Plumber & Pipefitter Locals Seek Apprentices

Both Morgantown and Parkersburg Plumbers & Pipefitters apprenticeship programs are accepting applications in May and June.

UA Local 152 will accept applications at their 100 Richard Ave. office in Morgantown.

Applications will be taken in the afternoon, from 1:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. starting Tuesday May 30 through Saturday June 3. Applications will be taken in the mornings, 8:00 a.m. till noon, from Monday, June 5 through Saturday, June 10.

Applicants must be high school graduates and furnish a diploma and transcripts or have

documentation of a GED equivalents. Applicants should also bring a valid birth certificate and show they are residents of Barbour, Braxton, Doddridge, Gilmer, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Pendleton, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker or Upshur County.

Applicants will be required to take a test given by the West Virginia Job Service and a substance abuse test.

For more information please call James Cartwright at 296-7562.

The Parkersburg Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship Program is also taking applicants in June for its program.

You must reside in the follow-

ing areas: Wood, Wirt, Pleasants, Jackson, Tyler, Calhoun and Ritchie Counties in WV or Washington, Meigs, Monroe Counties and Morgan County south of Rt. 78 in OH.

Applicants must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED and a valid drivers license.

Applications will be accepted Monday through Friday, June 5 through June 16, from 9:00 a.m. till noon at 593 Cedar Grove Road in Parkersburg. For more information call Gary Yarnell at 485-1565.

Both the Morgantown and Parkersburg programs stress that no applicant shall be rejected because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

Iron Worker 301 Apprenticeship Takes Applicants

Iron Worker apprenticeship applications will be taken in June in Charleston.

The Joint Apprenticeship Committee of the Kanawha Valley Builders and Iron Workers Local 301 will accept applications on June 19, 20, and 21 from 8:00 a.m. till noon and on June 26, 27, from 4:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.

Applications will be accepted at Iron Workers Local 301, 2425 Hampshire Drive in Charleston.

Those applying must be at least 18 years of age and have a

high school diploma or GED.

Applicants also must live within the jurisdiction of Local 301 for at least a year.

In West Virginia - Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Webster, Wyoming or the southern half of Randolph County. In Virginia - Buchanan, Dickerson, Russell, Tazewell, Wise or Washington County.

No applicant shall be rejected because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

For more information call 342-5343.

Worker's Memorial Day Held In Clarksburg

Worker's Memorial Day was held on April 28 in Clarksburg to honor and remember workers who died on the job in 2005.

The names of the 24 workers who died in 2005 were read and a bell was rung after each name was pronounced.

"Any time someone is killed on the job, something is wrong somewhere," remarked Kenny

Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO. "We remember these workers not just today but every day as we strive to create safer work environments for West Virginians."

The annual event began in 1989 to signify the importance of the Occupational Safety and Health Act which went into effect on April 28, 1970. Reports estimate that more than 300,000 workers have been saved since the law was enacted.

It is an international event, but in this country it is always held on April 28. The event always coincides with places where workers have died. Since Clarksburg is close to Sago, it was held there this year.

Also speaking were House of Delegates members Mike Caputo, D-Marion and Bill Hamilton, R-Upshur, and Senator John Hunter, D-Monongalia.

A recent report by the AFL-CIO looking at 2004 numbers

ranked West Virginia fourth highest for fatalities in the country, at a rate twice the national average.

On average, 16 workers across the country died and more than 12,000 workers were injured or sickened every day in 2004.

The report suggests the federal Occupational Safety Health

Act needs to be strengthened to include more inspectors, make it easier to issue safety and health standards and toughen the penalties for violating the law.

According to Perdue the report and event show how important it is for union members to constantly push for stronger workplace safety standards.



TONY BLIDGETT, (right) President of North Central West Virginia Labor Council, opened the ceremony, with the pledge and a prayer. West Virginia AFL-CIO President Kenny Perdue (center) presided over the memorial service, along with Larry Matheney, (left) Secretary-Treasurer WV AFL-CIO.

Windmills

CONTINUED FROM P. 2

And the critics were certainly vocal.

According to Matthews both the 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. meetings went on for hours with people lined up to speak.

At the hearing, several critics said the project would hurt rural West Virginia's tourism industry, specifically for areas such as the Greenbrier Resort, Lost World

Caverns, and Lewisburg's historic district.

However, these statements were contradicted by a recent survey done in Tucker County, where West Virginia's only wind farm exists.

That survey concluded property taxes and tourism were not negatively affected. In fact the county used pictures of the windmills on its promotional brochures.

Tucker County residents who

live near and around the turbines were interviewed and only two of fifty were found to be unhappy.

Supporters rallied and praised the projects for its good jobs, the use of local union labor, contribution to the economy, and as a substantial source of clean, renewable energy.

The scene was not much different the following week in Pendleton County.

On May 4 public hearings

were held at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Pendleton County Community Center in Franklin.

The project is a 44 windmill site called Liberty Gap. The developers, U.S. Wind Force, have signed an agreement with the North Central WV Building Trades to use local union workers to build the \$180 million project.

"We had a number of crafts show up in support of the project," said Darwin Snyder, President of North Central and

Business Manager for IBEW Local 596, Clarksburg.

"The group opposed was mostly DC tourists who are worried they might see a windmill when they drive to their vacation house."

The hearings were the second public meetings on the project.

ACT has intervened in support of both projects and will participate in evidentiary hearings at the PSC making sure local construction workers have a voice.

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

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email: utfcu@charter.net

600 Leon Sullivan Way, Suite 101
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 344-0194 fax 344-0195
toll free 1 800 450-8530
email: utfcuchas@charter.net