

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.

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SMITH WON'T SEEK NEW TERM AS TRADES SECRETARY-TREASURER

Roy Smith has decided not to run for re-election as Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Smith, who has held the position for 14 years, announced his decision in mid-July in advance of the State Building Trades Convention to be held on September 10.



Roy Smith

Officers are elected every four years and this year both the

Secretary-Treasurer and President position are up for election.

"For a number of positive reasons I felt it was a good time for me to leave," said Smith. "I've enjoyed working for the men and women of the Trades."

Smith began his career as an apprentice electrician with IBEW Local 872 in Beckley.

He was elected Business Manager for Local 872 in 1984.

When Gaston Caperton was elected Governor in 1989 he chose Smith as his Commissioner of Labor, a post Smith held for five years.

During that time he oversaw the implementation of the state contractors licensing law.

In 1994 Roy was appointed to the State Building Trades position following the retirement of Allen Fisher.

He is also a Vice President of the West Virginia AFL-CIO.

Smith is quick to point out at the age of 60 he is not retiring, "I just want to take a break. The most enjoyable years of my working career have been my time with the State Building Trades."

"The Trades are full of smart, talented people and working with them has been a pleasure."

During his tenure at the State Building Trades, he oversaw numerous changes.

He helped consolidate ACT and the State Building Trades and to increase membership to now include almost all crafts and locals with jurisdiction in West Virginia.

Smith also used his expertise in the areas of utility regulation, job training and design build regulations.

With his experience in both state government and labor Smith was able to transform the

old 'Construction Trades Training and Advancement Program' into 'Construction Works', which is a subsidiary of the State Building Trades.

Construction Works has been able to secure millions of dollars in funding for training and other worker assistance programs.

Smith was a well known figure at the state capitol representing the Trades.

At the September Convention delegates will select a new Secretary-Treasurer.

Delegates will also vote on the office of President, a position held by Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades since 1999.

"I intend to run for another term," said Burton.

"We wish Roy the best in his retirement and believe he has been a great asset to the Trades throughout his career."

WV PSC APPROVES \$1.1 BILLION TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

The state Public Service Commission has approved Allegheny Energy's plan for a \$1.1 billion electric transmission line across northern West Virginia.

On August 1, PSC Commissioners issued a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" for the Trans-Allegheny Interstate Line known as TrAIL.

The line will carry 500-kilovolts along its towers stretching from southwestern Pennsylvania, crossing eight counties in West Virginia over a 120-mile path into northern Virginia.

The total project length is 240

miles.

The Commissioners concluded the project will help upgrade the regional electrical network and allow construction of more power plants fired by the state's coal industry.

Supporters of the project believe the need to upgrade the nation's aging electrical grid is essential to continuing to provide cheap and reliable power to American consumers.

Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia State Building Trades, said, "We have always supported the development of our infrastructure and transmission lines are part of it. In addition to the potential for more generation, the new line will

allow existing plants to operate at higher capacity, requiring more frequent rebuilds by our members."

TrAIL still needs approval from utility regulators in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Hearings have been held and decisions are pending in both states.

The PSC is expected to begin considering a second transmission line later this year. American Electric Power and Allegheny are co-proposing the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline, PATH, which would run from the John Amos power plant outside St. Albans to Frederick, Md.

Opponents of both projects

fear the lines and towers will negatively affect their property, and question the benefit to them as electric consumers. "I believe the line development will help stabilize the price of electricity," Smith counters.

"And the Building Trades will be weighing in to showing the huge economic benefits these projects bring, not only for new construction but to keep our existing power generating businesses growing."

Governor Joe Manchin wants to see West Virginia reap revenues from the proposed power lines.

The governor had suggested a tax on the transmission line to help off-set rate increases.

\$255 MILLION WIND POWER HEARING HELD

Developers of the Laurel Mountain Wind project went before the state's Public Service Commission in early August looking for approval to build a new \$255 million wind project.

ACT and the WV State Building Trades were also at the hearing having intervened in support of the project.

The 125 megawatt project will be built in Barbour and Randolph counties and, depending on the turbine size selected, will use 53 to 65 windmills.

The difference in windmill numbers is because the developer is looking at two types of turbines. GE makes a 1.5 megawatt turbine and Clipper makes one that will generate 2.5 megawatts.

The North Central WV Building Trades has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the developer AES Lau-

rel Mountain, to require local union construction workers build the project.

Darwin Snyder, President of the North Central Trades presented testimony to the PSC about the agreement and the availability of local manpower to do the job.

"These wind projects provide good paying jobs with benefits for my members," said Snyder. "We have the skilled construction workers needed for this project, and they need the work."

In preparation for the PSC hearing, ACT hired a consultant to model the economic benefits local construction employment will bring to the area and the state.

The report produced by the Center for Community and Labor Research shows the project will generate \$43 million in additional local business sales, \$14 million in wages including 125 construction jobs and 158 additional WV jobs in trucking, re-

tail, professional services, and wholesaling industries. In addition, state and federal taxes as well as profits from local companies and sole proprietors will help fuel the local economy.

An additional eight to ten jobs will be created once the project

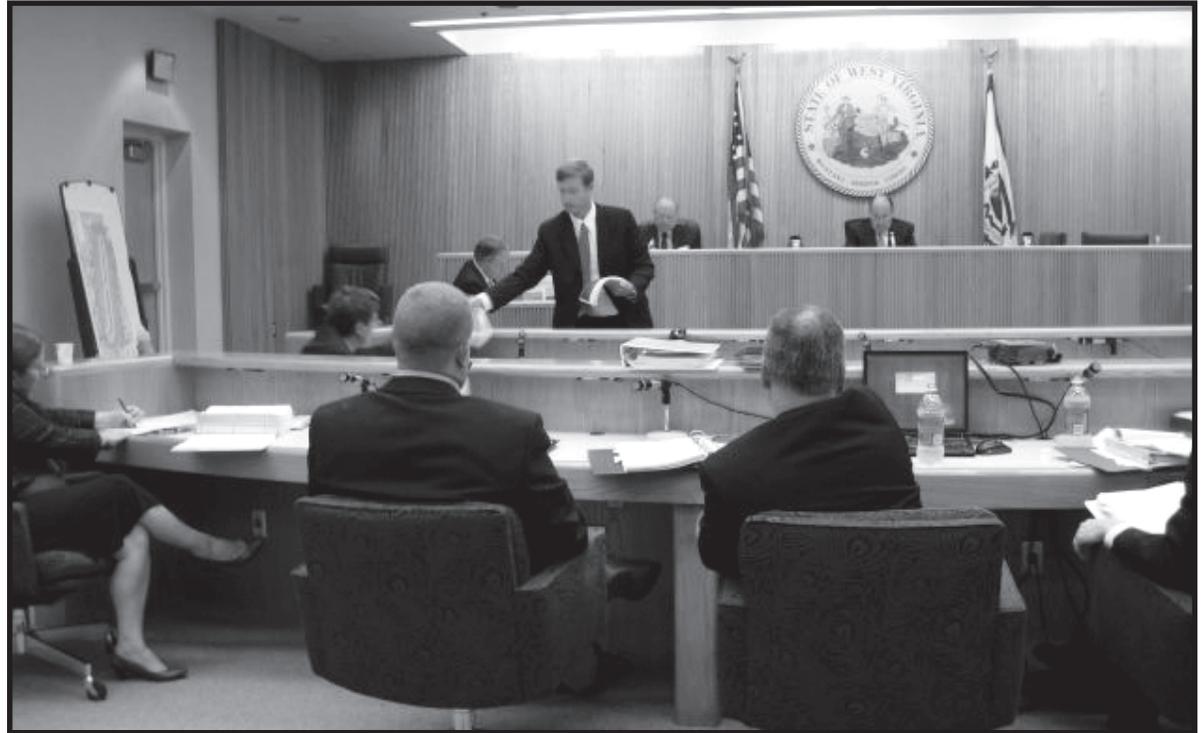
is operational.

Opposition to the project comes from local residents concerned about the views and noise and from groups concerned about the impact of the project on birds and bats.

Developer AES Corporation

is based in Arlington, Virginia and is an international energy company operating in 129 countries.

A decision is expected from the PSC by the end of the year, the project has a tentative start date of next spring.



TRADES ATTORNEY VINCE Trivelli receives papers from opposition lawyer Bradley Stephens during a PSC hearing on the AES Laurel Mountain wind project.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT NEEDS PERMIT

A \$250 million hydro-electric project at Willow Island is just one permit away from construction.

Developer American Municipal Power - Ohio, who built a similar project at the Belleville Lock and Dam site near Parkersburg a number of years ago, is waiting for a Corps of Engineers permit for dredging and soil removal.

The Corps permit is the last of a lengthy process required by various federal and state agencies to undertake the project.

Once the permit is issued project construction will begin.

The project will require around 400 construction workers at peak employment.

"We've worked with the AMP Ohio folks before and look forward to working with them again on this project," said Sam Davis, Business Manager for the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council.

Located in Pleasants County the project will install two 17.5 megawatt generating units. A cofferdam will first be constructed so material can be excavated from the shoreline. A 1.6 mile transmission line will connect the project to a nearby substation.

A number of recreational fa-

cilities will be added as part of the project including a fishing pier, walkways, parking, and public restrooms.

AMP Ohio, a group of Ohio municipalities, has been at work developing the project since early 2006.

In addition to the Willow Island site there are a number of hydroelectric projects are under various stages of development in West Virginia.

In the planning stage are projects at Sutton Dam, Braxton County; R.D. Bailey Dam, Mingo County; Jennings Randolph Dam, Mineral County; and Tygart Dam, Taylor County.

Applications are also under-

way at three Lock and Dam sites on the Monongahela River; Opekiska, Hildebrand, and Morgantown.

Projects range from eight to 20 megawatt capacity.

The major regulatory agency responsible for hydro-electric projects is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The regulatory process starts with the filing of a Pre-Application Document which, if approved, gives a developer a specific time to put an application together knowing they have exclusive rights to the site.

FERC issues a Study Plan Determination which details the

studies to be included in the application.

Areas of study include fishery and recreational issues, wetlands and environmental issues, historic and cultural surveys, effected landowners, and many other issues.

Once the studies are conducted a preliminary license is requested, then upon review and modification a final license.

Along the way public hearings are held and public input sought.

If you want to get involved see page 3 for letter writing information.

Details on each project can be found on the FERC website www.ferc.gov.

DAVIS TO RETIRE, HUTCHINSON TO REPLACE

Sam Davis, Business Manager for the Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council has chosen to retire.

Davis, a 48 year member of the Laborers Union, has led the Council for 15 years.

Prior to his position at the Council Davis worked for 12 years as president and field representative for Laborers Local 639, Marietta. "I've really enjoyed the privilege of working for the Trades," said Davis.



Sam Davis The Council covers work in eight Ohio Counties and eight West Virginia Counties and represents approximately 10,000 construction workers.

Davis sees the main role of the Council is to work with area business agents to share information

and coordinate efforts.

"It's important we get everybody on the same page," said Davis. "By working together we get to know each other and can accomplish more for our members."

One focus of Davis has been to get more involved with plant owners from the area. His goal has been to better understand their construction needs and in turn let them know about the Trades.

"We need to have a voice for ourselves, not just rely on the contractors," he said.

Davis points to his involvement in regular meetings of the Appalachian Construction Users Council and local Labor Management meetings.

The good communications has helped make the drug and safety programs a success as well.

Davis will continue in the job until the end of August to help his replacement.

"The biggest challenge we face today is finding contractors to bid on work," said Davis.

The Council put together a search committee to find a successor for Davis until the end of

his term in 2010 when elections will be held.

Bill Hutchinson, a 31 year member and former Business Manager of Iron Workers Local 787 was selected.



Bill Hutchinson

Hutchinson started the new job on August 11.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE



WAYNE REBICH, ACT Representative, explains the new Alcohol and Drug Free law to Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper and Dave Hardy (not pictured). The County passed a resolution in support of the law during their August 7 meeting. Rebich is leading an effort to get County Commissions to support drug free construction projects.

Write a letter to urge quick action on the Willow Island Hydro Project by the Corps of Engineers to:

Colonel Dana R. Hurst, District Engineer,
Department of the Army
Huntington District, Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Dear Corps,
Please move quickly on the Willow Island Hydro Project permit. We need the jobs. Thank you.
Sincerely,
"Your Name & Address"

PAINTERS DISTRICT COUNCIL 53 APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Painters has four West Virginia locations for accepting apprentice applications.

Applications are taken year round, except for holidays and weekends, for four programs - Painting, Drywall, Glaziers, and Hydro Blaster/Vacuum Technicians.

The three year programs teach all aspects of the trade in both classroom and on-the-job settings.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, physically capable of performing the work safely, and have basic reading and writing skills.

Please call ahead to make

sure someone is available to take your application.

Applications and information can be obtained at the following Painter Union office locations:

115 Spring Street, Charleston
304/343-8259 ext 10

901 Market Street, Teamsters Building, Wheeling
304/650-0199

2001 Pine Street, Kenova
304/360-2857

512 33rd Street, Parkersburg
740/516-0090

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

Call 304-343-8259 ext 10 for more information.

CONSOL PROJECT TO PRODUCE METHANOL AND 87-OCTANE GASOLINE**\$800 MILLION COAL-TO-GAS PLANT SLATED**

CONSOL Energy Inc. announced on July 28 they are committed to building an \$800 million "coal-to-gasoline" plant near the Ohio River in Benwood.

Record high oil prices and the proximity of affordable raw materials are the two primary reasons the major coal company believes the time is right to make a large investment in a plant that can make fuel from coal mine waste.

The Pittsburgh-based coal giant will partner with Houston-based Synthesis Energy Systems, a company that owns and operates coal gasification plants internationally.

CONSOL, through its subsidiary Terra Firma Company, and SES have formed Northern Appalachia Fuel LLC to build and operate the plant. When completed, the plant should employ around 60 workers to operate the plant.

No official estimate of the numbers of construction jobs was available at press time, but a range of 300 jobs has been mentioned.

The plant will produce fuel by

gasifying a mix of raw and residual coal that is currently generated as waste at the coal preparation plant at CONSOL's Shoemaker Mine near Benwood, and from their McElroy Mine, just another mile away.

SES's proprietary U-GAS gasifier operates at a relatively lower-heat level which allows the use of coal with high-ash content. Other technologies burn at higher temperatures which require more costly low-ash fuels.

The Marshall County project is of a smaller scale than other projects which means it can fit on the 100 acres Consol has available in Benwood, utilizing 65 acres initially and leaving room to expand.

A modular construction method will be used for some of the factory's primary components leaving assembly and installation of the modular units the main task for on-site skilled construction workers.

"This project is a great opportunity for our members," said Tom Gray, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council. "We've met with the developers and are working to establish a project labor agree-

ment.

"Achieving that agreement means we'd be looking at lots of very good jobs for every one of our trades."

The Benwood project will produce about 720,000 metric tons of methanol a year or 100 million gallons of 87-octane gasoline a year -- or a combination of the two products.

The late July announcement goes a long way toward making good on West Virginia Gov. Manchin's December 2005 pledge to secure a coal liquefaction plant for the state by the end of his first term, which is January 2009.

"Turning coal waste into valuable fuel is an excellent example of different groups working together to make the most

of our resources," observed Gray.

According to the Governor's office, Consol, Synthesis Energy Systems, the state and the Regional Economic Development Partnership signed a memorandum of understanding under which the state and the partnership will provide financing and

tax incentives to the project over a 10-year period.

The incentive package is valued at close to \$200 million.

Incentives include tax credits worth up to \$160 million, a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) zone worth approximately \$35 million, training funds and road improvements.

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COUNCIL TO HOLD LABOR NIGHT EVENT AT POWER PARK

The Kanawha Valley Labor Council will be holding their annual Labor Night event at Power Park in Charleston on Friday, August 22. A picnic-buffet will start at 5:30 p.m. and the game will start at 7:05 p.m.

The cost for both events will be \$20 and includes a box seat ticket. There will be fireworks after the game.

**Send your check to:
Kanawha Valley Labor Council
600 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301
If you have any questions
call Joan Matthews at 304-343-6952.**

Apprenticeship Conference

Learn the latest in apprenticeship issues and trends.

Training instructors, coordinators, directors and others involved in apprenticeship programs encouraged to attend. All trades invited.

September 17th and 18th at Pipestem Resort 8:00 am to 5:00 each day. Rooms available for reduced rate.

Contact Odie Parkins for further information 304-428-1891.