

# THE ACT REPORT

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TRADES

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## "LOCAL JOBS FOR LOCAL WORKERS"

# NEW MARCELLUS SHALE PROTESTS

Workers in Clarksburg and the Upper Ohio Valley area have held protests recently about out-of-state workers taking construction jobs relating to the Marcellus Shale gas fields.

In both cases the message was clear – local construction workers are ready, willing and able to do Marcellus Shale construction projects, but imported workers are getting the jobs.

Operating Engineers and Laborers led a protest in Clarksburg on May 5 and were joined by a number of trades in support.

The protest was in front of Dominion Transmissions Clarksburg offices and focused on the use of Holloman Construction from Texas on

a pipeline project in Wetzel County.

"We have plenty of top

quality pipeline hands in the Wetzel County area who would love to work close to

home," said Larry Young of Operating Engineers Local *Continued on p. 3*



PROTESTING IN FRONT of Dominion Transmission offices in Clarksburg on May 5 are members of various craft unions. They want to know why Holloman Corporation from Texas and their imported workers were hired to do pipeline work local workers need and are qualified to do.

## 50 WV WORKERS DIED ON THE JOB IN 2010

# ANNUAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY EVENT HELD IN HUNTINGTON

Union members from throughout the state traveled to Huntington on Thursday evening, April 28 to remember fallen workers in observance of national Workers Memorial Day.

The event honored 50 West Virginia workers killed in 2010, including 29 men who died in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in April 2010 and three men killed in a blast at the AL Solutions chemical plant in New Cumberland.

Workers Memorial Day is

an annual event aimed at promoting workplace safety and remembering those workers who have died on the job during the prior year.

ters along Madison Avenue.

The national AFL-CIO issued its annual report, "Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect," to coincide with

state the most deaths in that industry in the time frame.

The full report can be found by visiting [www.afl-cio.org/issues/safety](http://www.afl-cio.org/issues/safety).

This year marked anniversaries of two related events.

It was 100 years ago when 146 workers were killed in the Triangle Shirt Waist fire. The workers - most of them young immigrant women - were killed when locked doors blocked any escape.

This year is also the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the right of workers to safe jobs.

*THE REPORT REVEALED THAT WEST VIRGINIA HAS EXPERIENCED 134 DEATHS FROM MINING ACCIDENTS IN THE PAST DECADE, GIVING THE STATE THE MOST DEATHS IN THAT INDUSTRY IN THE TIME FRAME.*

The West Virginia AFL-CIO observed the day by gathering at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 317 headquar-

Workers Memorial Day. The report revealed that West Virginia has experienced 134 deaths from mining accidents in the past decade, giving the

LOCAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS NOT CONSIDERED IMPORTANT

## TRADES QUESTION MACY'S DISTRIBUTION CENTER ECONOMIC INCENTIVE DEAL

ACT representatives are questioning why Macy's Corporation has been given millions of tax dollars without requiring a single construction worker be from West Virginia.

Numerous Freedom of Information letters had to be sent to state and local development officials to determine just how much tax funding was given to the \$170 million distribution center project in Berkeley County.

So far ACT has uncovered sales and property tax breaks worth millions, state help on financing \$176 million for the project, as well as a grant of \$5 million for site preparation and \$2.3 million for training.

The general contractor hired for the 1.3 million square foot project is H & M Construction from Tennessee. The site preparation con-

tractor is Charles DeWeese Construction Inc., from Kentucky.

ACT Representative Matt McComas has been to the Berkeley County Development Authority and to the job site to see how local workers and contractors can get an opportunity to work on the project.

"All we get is a run around," said McComas. "They tell me they have all their contractors lined up, but when I ask for a list they all of a sudden don't know."

His request for information to the Development Authority has been met with unreturned calls.

ACT Director Steve White went to the WV Economic Development Authority meeting of April 21 to explain the frustration and disappointment local workers felt with their tax dollars at issue.

"We want to know where

the money is and why no one talks about local construction workers - we are tax payers too," White told the Authority members.

At the same meeting Macy's asked for and received

permission to use the special tax free financing status of the state.

When asked about the property tax deal given to the company Development Authority officials claimed they

did not know the details.

Further FOIA requests yielded an agreement between Berkeley County and Macy's worth more than \$10 million in forgiven property

*Continued on p. 4*



KENTUCKY CONTRACTOR Charles DeWeese Construction Inc., works on the site of the Macy's distribution center project funded by a forgivable state loan of \$5 million to Macy's.

## DATES SET FOR PARKERSBURG PLUMBERS JOINT APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS

The Parkersburg Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship will be accepting application from Wednesday, June 1 through Friday, June 10.

Applications will be available from 9:00am till noon each day, except on weekends.

Those interested should go to 593 Cedar Grove Road,

Parkersburg (two block from WVU-P).

The five year program teaches all aspects of the plumbing and pipefitting trade including, welding and pipefitting, medical gas, CAD, refrigeration, instrument technician, blue print reading, plumbing, heating and cooling.

Apprentices are paid while on-the-job and also go to

school for a minimum of 216 hours per year.

To qualify an applicant must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, a valid driver's license and be physically able to perform the work of the trade.

A copy of the applicant's birth certificate, driver's license, high school diploma or GED and if recently in the military a DD214 form will

be requested at the time of application.

Completed applications, together with all supporting documents, must be submitted within the same time period during June 1 to June 10.

Applicants must reside in the area of Local 565 which includes Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Tyler, Wirt and Wood County in WV; and Morgan County south of

Route 78, Meigs, Monroe, and Washington County in Ohio.

Applicants must pass an aptitude test administered by WV Workforce as well as an alcohol and drug test.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

*HARRISON & UPSHUR SCHOOL BONDS FAIL***SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR**

Democrat Earl Ray Tomblin will go up against Republican Bill Maloney for the Special General Election for Governor to be held in October.

Tomblin was able to beat the WV AFL-CIO endorsed candidate Rick Thompson (D-Wayne) as well as four other democratic candidates.

Thompson, who came in second, was endorsed after a series of interviews and a review of questionnaires and candidate track records. He has a 100% voting record on Labor issues.

The Special Election did not get much of a response from the public with an estimated 16 percent of registered voters going to the

polls.

Organized Labor focused on membership education and voter turnout.

"We knew the turnout would be low so we tried to encourage union members to

vote," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

Another factor effecting Labor was the unprecedented attacks seen in states like Wisconsin and Ohio against workers.

"Our members were fired up about Wisconsin and Ohio," said Efaw. "I am convinced we got our message

out - we simply need more members."

Both political parties had a crowded field of candidates.

preme Court overruled Tomblin and ordered a special election.

The court said the election had to be concluded by November of this year.

Because the race is a Special Election candidates were able to run without giving up their current elected office.

This may have been the reason both parties saw a crowded field of candidates.

Whoever wins in October will only be in office for a year. An election for the regular four year term will be held next year.

Also on the ballot were

school bond votes in Harrison and Upshur Counties.

In Harrison County a \$71 million bond failed by 3 to 1.

The State School Building Authority (SBA) had committed to give the County \$25 million, but only if the bond passed.

The funding would have been used for renovations, additions, and new facilities for 11 schools.

In Upshur County a \$35 million bond failed which means the County will not be eligible for an additional \$13 million from the SBA.

The money would have funded the construction of a new Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School as well as improvements in eight other schools in the county.

**MARCELLUS**

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

132.

"Why bring in companies from Texas who import workers?"

these jobs."

In Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel Counties workers have manned four protests in the last five weeks to draw attention to the same issue "Local Jobs for Local Workers."

*"WE SEE PLENTY OF OUT-OF-STATE TRUCKS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WHEN WE NEED THE JOBS FOR LOCAL WORKERS," WALTER 'FUZZ' LARUE, ACT REPRESENTATIVE*

Holloman is building a 24 inch pipeline for Dominion at their Hastings facility in Wetzel County.

Workers from Texas, Oklahoma and Florida have been observed working at the project.

"Wetzel County has 16 percent unemployment," said Joe Bowen of the Laborers. "Our local workers need

"We want to let the public know we have skilled, qualified people who want and need these jobs," said Jim Flannigan, Organizer for Iron Workers 549 Wheeling.

According to ACT's Walter 'Fuzz' LaRue the protests have been organized by Flannigan along with Randy Miller of the Electricians with a number of crafts joining.

The response from the public has been overwhelming support.

"We see plenty of out-of-

state trucks and construction workers when we need the jobs for local workers," said LaRue. "Marcellus Shale

work should benefit our communities. And local jobs should be everyone's top priority."



STANDING ALONG ROUTE 2 in Wetzel County are members of various crafts promoting "Local Jobs for Local Workers." This event took place on April 14 and is one of four protests held at different locations in the last five weeks.

*PROJECT ADVANCES BUT STILL NOT DEFINITE***GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR TRANSGAS**

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held on May 9 in Mingo County for an estimated \$3-4 billion coal-to-gasoline project.

Developers TransGas LLC from New York say the project, called Adams Fork Energy, will convert 7,500 tons of coal into 756,000 gallons of gasoline per day when in peak production.

The conversion is a two-step process, first turning the coal to a gas, then from gas to gasoline.

The technology has been around for years but this would be the first major North American use.

Exxon together with German company Udhe are the key technology providers.

As the project moves closer to a reality it still faces some major hurdles.

Key to the effort is completing design specifications and a fixed price contract for construction so that financing can be secured.

Just as important the project must be underway by the end of June or face a new

environmental regulation on carbon dioxide.

The CO2 rules only go into effect on projects that have not started by July 1.

If the project is not underway it must comply with the new regulation.

That will mean new permits must be applied for and then face any challenges, a process that can take years.

The Tri-State Building Trades is working to finalize a project labor agreement for the undertaking.

“The company has some pretty tight deadlines to

reach,” said Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades. “We are very enthusiastic about this project, but recognize it is not yet a done deal.

“We hope they can meet their deadlines not only for the work opportunities but because it is a step towards

energy independence for our nation.”

News reports said as many as 3,000 construction workers would be needed but actual manpower numbers have not been published.

Full-time workers are estimated at 300. Production is scheduled to start in 2015.



*THIS GRAPHIC REPRESENTS what the Adams Fork Energy project will look like if built. The 300 acre site near Wharncliffe in Mingo County is a former surface mine.*

**MACY'S**

*CONTINUED FROM P. 2*

taxes.

They will pay no property taxes for 6 years and then partial payments for the next 9 years.

Typically more than two thirds of property taxes go to fund county schools.

The remainder goes to police, fire and other county functions.

While the Berkeley County Commission is forgiving taxes the County School Board received around \$10 million in assistance from the state School Building Authority earlier this year.

In addition, at the April 21

meeting, it was discovered recent legislation exempted much of the equipment for the distribution center from sales taxes.

Administration officials claimed the legislation had nothing to do with the Macy's project during the legislative session.

Now, they say the Legis-

lature changed the bill at the last minute unknown to them.

Much of the tax breaks and other funds do require the company to hire 600 workers for their permanent jobs.

But the levels set in documents reflect a requirement for only half the 1200 jobs the company and development officials have touted at press events.

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