

# THE ACT REPORT

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## HUNDREDS OF CONSTRUCTION JOBS LOST

# \$500 MILLION DOMINION PROJECT MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE

**D**ominion's \$500 million gas processing facility is moving ahead, but slower than first announced.

Originally scheduled for completion at the end of this year the new estimates for the first phase of the job are supposedly moved back to April of 2013.

In addition the job news has been mixed with a few local sub-contractors using local workers on the project but the main contractor, CB&I based in Texas, preferring to import their workforce.

Site preparation and piling work was sub-contracted to local contractors, but the concrete work, tanks and steel erection CB&I self-performed and used mostly imported workers.

CB&I is estimated to have around 320 workers on the project of which less than 100 were hired locally.

"We think around 25 to 30 percent local-hires is the best CB&I has done on this job," said Donnie Huff, ACT Representative.

"Our information on exactly how many workers are on the job is far from perfect but

we think we are fairly close with our estimates."

Through sub-contracts and related contracts not under CB&I the local job picture improves.

Contracts for a few small buildings at the site have gone

to local companies as well as some work connecting utilities. "Overall we have picked up some work, but the majority is going to out-of-state companies and workers while unemployment remains high

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*LOCAL WORKERS WHO are members of the Carpenters apply for jobs at the CB&I office in New Martinsville but not one has been called. Other crafts have sent in members with the same results.*

## ABC EXPOSED

# MCKINLEY, RAHALL SUPPORT PLAs

**A** key vote in Congress on whether to allow Project Labor Agreements on federal military construction projects passed with the help of two out of the three West Virginia congressional representatives.

Congressmen Nick Joe Rahall (D) and David McKinley (R) both voted to remove language prohibiting project labor agreements on federal military and Veteran Admin-

istration construction projects.

Representative Shelly Capito (R) voted for the anti-labor provision.

Project labor agreements (PLAs) are common in large private sector projects because securing a supply of qualified manpower is key to

the success of any project.

The issue has become a point of attack on publicly funded projects for anti-worker forces because PLAs promote a higher standard of construction and are seen as less advantageous to many low-road nonunion contractors.

Also during debate on the same bill an attempt was made to remove Davis-Bacon protections, commonly referred to as the prevailing

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*"THE OVERWHELMING BIPARTISAN MAJORITY DEMONSTRATED STRONG SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY WAGE STANDARDS..." SEAN MCGARVEY, PRESIDENT, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT OF THE AFL-CIO*

## \$16,075 BACK PAY AND ATTORNEYS FEES

# FORMER DIVERSIFIED WORKERS GET WAGES

Six construction workers and their attorney will divide \$16,075 resulting from a wage dispute with Diversified Enterprises, Inc.

Diversified is owned by noted Powerball winner Jack Whittaker.

The dispute occurred during the construction of a project for the Shady Springs Public Service District in Raleigh County which was bid in 2006.

Diversified was low bidder for the Cool Ridge - Flat Top

area water treatment facility that also serves the Winterplace Ski Resort.

Funds for the project included a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and \$4.7 million in loans from two state agencies. Construction was estimated at \$5.5 million according to Public Service Commission records.

In addition ratepayers were asked to pay 79% more.

ACT's Wayne Rebich was approached by one of the workers. Rebich put him in contact with Luke Begovich

of the Carpenters who went about talking to other workers on the project learning they were not getting paid the proper wages.

With help from Begovich the workers filed a complaint with the West Virginia Division of Labor.

"These guys were not getting paid right," said Begovich. "And they were not treat-

ed right by Whittaker either."

After investigating, the DOL issued an order to Diversified on April 6 of 2009 to pay the employees \$11,530.

The Shady Spring Public Service District withheld payment to Diversified upon learning of the wage dispute.

When the company didn't pay, the workers got help from the Carpenters organiz-

ing staff who found an attorney to file suit near the end of 2009.

It took more than two years but the attorney was able to collect the entire sum plus legal fees.

The settlement, finalized earlier this year, shows the Shady Spring PSD released the funds held in reserve directly to the attorney.

## ABC

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

wage law.

All Democrats were joined by 52 House Republicans in defeating the amendment, 237-180, with all three of West Virginia's representatives voting in support of Davis Bacon.

Sean McGarvey, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, in a statement praising legislative leaders said, "The overwhelming bipartisan majority demonstrated strong support for local community wage standards and cast aside ideological arguments advancing a race to the bottom business model that drains local communities and undermines the long term strength and viability of the construction industry."

However soon after the votes a letter appeared in local papers from the WV chapter of ABC – the anti-union

contractors group – attacking Rahall and McKinley for their PLA vote.

What has become typical of the group was a letter filled with false information.

Taking issue with the PLA vote the group wrote they represented 130 contractors and 3,500 workers.

But a visit to their own web site tells a different story with only 110 companies listed, the majority being non-contractor members.

"They only list 34 contractor members, and since when do contractors represent workers?" asked Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

The Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO has begun a research project to uncover the truth about the ABC and their state chapters.

They have recently launched a web site [www.KnowYourABC.com](http://www.KnowYourABC.com) to get out the facts.

## CHAPMAN HOLDS OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW FABRICATION SHOP



*This 30" x 24" Launcher / Receiver is part of the work product from the new fabrication shop of Chapman Corporation in Washington, PA.*

*The contractor held an Open House on June 1 to show off its new 54,300-square-foot pipe fabrication facility.*

*The 80' by 600' structure was completed in February and was built to help the firm keep up with its increasing workload on Marcellus and Utica Shale related projects.*

*Chapman has been the primary union contractor building gas processing facilities related to the shale gas discoveries in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.*

*Chapman has worked on cryogenic plants, fractionators, compressor stations, interconnects and upgrades to DOT facilities as well as an NGL terminal.*

*The firm currently employs approximately 150 people in the home office with anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 union craft workers in the field.*

CHARTERED IN 1912 WITH 35 MEMBERS

# PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 83 WHEELING CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

More than 200 people gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 83 in Wheeling.

The event took place on May 12 at Oglebay Park.

The local union was first established in 1892 but was disbanded in 1911, then re-chartered in 1912.

So the history actually goes back further than 100 years, to 120 years ago.

Founded on May 25, 1912 the new local started with 35 men. Not until 1916 was there a Business Agent listed, according to records.

Property for the current office and training facility was

purchased in 1967, and then expanded across the street for more training a few years ago.

The Local is a proud affiliate of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, commonly referred to as the UA.

The UA itself was formed in 1889, so the first Wheeling local was formed only three years after the national group.

"We owe a lot to those who came before us and created this organization," said Jeff Beresford, Business Manager. "One hundred years is quite an accomplishment."



JEFF BERESFORD, Business Manager of UA Local 83 (center holding plaque) poses during the 100th anniversary event with leaders of the UA and Local 83. The plaque was given to Local 83 from the UA in recognition of the event.

AFL-CIO URGES OSHA AND MSHA TO ACT QUICKLY

## STUDY SHOWS SILICA EXPOSURE FROM FRACKING IS DANGEROUS FOR WORKERS

A new government study concludes some gas industry workers may be exposed to dangerous levels of silica.

The two-year study was done by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Fracking is short for hydraulic fracturing, the process used to break up shale rock sometimes a mile or more beneath the surface in order to release natural gas.

Silica sand and a variety of chemicals are mixed into

a solution and injected under very high pressure.

The shale is broken, or "fractured", and the sand keeps the fractures from closing.

NIOSH found 79 percent of samples they took for silica exceeded the recommended exposure limits.

The AFL-CIO has written to OSHA urging immediate action.

They recommend the

agency along with MSHA issue a joint "hazard alert" that identifies the occupational safety and health hazards in the fracking industry, with a

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special focus on silica exposures.

The letter also recommends OSHA move quickly to initiate rulemaking on a new silica standard that in-

cludes requirements for exposure monitoring and medical surveillance.

The AFL-CIO suggested NIOSH expand its field work in the fracking industry to include medical surveillance of workers.

Silica exposure leading to illness and death is not new in West Virginia.

During the 1920's workers at the Hawks Nest Tunnel project in Fayette County

were exposed to high levels of silica dust.

Many workers developed silicosis, a debilitating lung disease, and hundreds - some say thousands - died from the exposure.

The Study showed that, in addition to the health hazards, workers in the oil and gas extraction industries face high rates of fatal occupational injuries.

From 2003 to 2009, there were 27.5 deaths per 100,000 workers, a fatality rate more than seven times higher than for all U.S. workers.

CIVIC LEADERS TOUR FACILITIES

# PARKERSBURG-MARIETTA TRADES SHOWCASE CRAFT TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Parkersburg-Marietta Building and Construction Trades Council sponsored an Open House to highlight the skills men and women of the trades must get to become qualified workers in today's construction industry.

The event was held on May 31 and included a tour

of three training facilities plus booths from a variety of crafts.

The facilities toured were the Millwrights Local 1755, Iron Workers Local 787 and Sheet Metal Workers Local 33, all of which are in the same general area.

Other crafts were on hand to explain their training and facilities to invited guests.

Local political leaders,

businesses and educators were invited to participate.

"We want our community leaders to understand what it takes to train a skilled, qualified construction worker," said Bill Hutchinson, Business Manager of the Council.

According to Hutchinson the Council plans to hold more events in the future.

"Educating the community on the job we do – both labor

and management – to create a highly skilled and productive workforce is something you don't get done in one day," said Hutchinson.

Not only were the many

training and apprenticeship programs highlighted but the commitment to an alcohol and drug free workforce was also explained to those on the tour.



BRAD WINANS OF Iron Workers Local 787 shows off their virtual welding machine and explains how it is used as an effective training tool. Photo courtesy of The News and Sentinel.

## DOMINION

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

for the crafts," said Huff.

Piping and electrical work are the biggest outstanding tasks.

CB&I plans to hire their own pipefitters but sub-contract the electrical.

A recent insulating con-

tract went to a Louisiana firm called Insulations Inc., and they are expected to import most of their workforce.

"Where they have used union crafts the project has gone smoothly, it's where they import their workforce and the project management where we hear about the problems," said Huff.

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