

THE ACT REPORT

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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Bill Hutchinson, President | Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer | Steve White, Director



Air, Water Permit Hearing Held on Ohio PTT Cracker

The estimated \$10 billion Belmont County, Ohio ethane cracker continues to advance towards construction with the latest efforts focused on securing environmental permits.

The joint venture of Thailand-based PTT Global Chemical and South Korea's Daelim Industrial Company have received a draft air permit from the Ohio EPA.

A public hearing was held at the Shadyside High School on November 27 which was well attended by members of the trades.

"A number of building trades leaders including our State Building Trades Secretary-Treasurer Mike Kinsley and Clint Powell of the Laborers made comments to support the jobs this important project will bring," said Matt Szollosi, Executive Director of ACT Ohio.

The air permit application was filed August 31 and public comments were taken through December 11.

A water permit public hearing

was held on December 12 and will also take public comments as part of the permit process.

According to Szollosi there were some objections to the project with

out-of-state environmental groups expressing their opposition.

Proponents of the project, including ACT Ohio and the Building Trades see it much differently. "We

know this project can not only create good jobs during construction and while operating. But also fully comply with all of the environmental

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Matt Szollosi of ACT Ohio testifies in support of the \$10 billion PTT Ethane Cracker complex proposed for Belmont County, Ohio during an air permit public hearing held in late November.

Logan County School Opens Almost Five Months Late Due to Construction Delays

Students finally got into the new Chapmanville Intermediate School in Logan County five months after general contractor Persinger and Associates failed to complete the project on-time and well after the start of the school year.

The completion date, when bids came in on April 4, 2017 for the \$9 million school, was June 30, 2018.

The project started with a construction manager and Persinger and Associates as the low bid for the general trades' package at just under \$5.5 million. At some point the construction manager left the project and Persinger took over the project management.

Construction was plagued with numerous delays, safety problems,

quality issues, change orders, Jobs Act violations and more.

The County Board of Education sent a series of letters to Persinger to try to keep the project on schedule. Persinger pledged to get the job done on a number of occasions and plans were drawn up to do just that.

However when the first day of school arrived the project was no-

where near completion.

The former schools that had already been closed had to be reopened so students could begin classes.

"This is an example of what the repeal of prevailing wage has done to the construction industry," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building and Construction

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National Apprenticeship Week 2018 Held

Apprenticeship programs across the country made a special effort to get the word out about the many benefits of apprenticeship during National Apprenticeship Week held last month during November 12 - 18.

National Apprenticeship Week gives apprenticeship sponsors the opportunity to showcase their programs, facilities, and apprentices in their community.

The week-long event highlights the benefits of apprenticeship in preparing a highly-skilled workforce to meet the talent needs of employers across diverse industries.

A variety of craft programs participated throughout the area. Some samples include the Parkersburg-Marietta area on November 14, there

was an Open House at IBEW #972's Training Facility with other skilled trades of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council.

On November 15, in the Charleston area, the Carpenters held an Open House and on the 16th WV Women Work held a graduation ceremony at Plumber and Pipefitter Local Union 625's Union Hall.

The Laborers used a social media campaign with testimonials from apprentices to spread the word.

"We had videos and pictures of our apprentices and their success stories on FaceBook and Instagram and had a great response from the public," said Ross McPherson, Administrator for the WV Laborers' Training program. ■



This screen shot from a video testimonial was part of the social media approach used by the West Virginia Laborers Training Center to promote apprenticeship during National Apprenticeship Week.

Plasterers & Cement Masons 926 are Taking Apprenticeship Applications January 7 - 11

The West Virginia Area Plasterers and Cement Masons 926 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee will be accepting applications from Monday, January 7 through Friday, January 11, 2019, during normal business hours.

Applications will be accepted at four locations.

OP&CMIA Local 926

3870 Central Av.

Shadyside Oh. 43947

304-312-9128

CEA-NCWV Inc.

2794 White Hall Blvd.

White Hall, WV 26554

304-367-1290

OP&CMIA Local 926

3130 7th Ave.

Charleston, WV 25387

304-744-8389

OP&CMIA Local 926 Training Center

720 Staunton Turnpike

Parkersburg, WV 26104

304-865-8389

If accepted into the program you will learn all aspects of the Plasterers and Cement Masons trade including a variety of methods to finish con-

crete surfaces, an understanding of the properties of concrete curing, the effects of temperature and different compositions of product, the application of stucco and similar exterior products, and more.

Apprentices will have classroom training along with paid on-the-job training and depending on work availability usually complete the program within three years.

Applications must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and have the following documentation to be eligible.

- a copy of your birth certificate
- a copy of your High School Diploma or equivalent (GED)
- a valid driver's license
- proof of residency such as: driver's license, utility bill or rent receipt in your name.

You must reside within the jurisdiction of Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 926: (All of West Virginia: Belmont, Jefferson, and Harrison Counties in Ohio: Allegheny, Garrett, and Washington Counties in

Maryland.)

In addition you must be physically capable of performing the work of the trade and be able to pass a pre-employment drug screening.

You may bring certificates for vocational/technical school or college if applicable. Veterans can bring a form DD-214 for consideration of military service.

Contact Kevin Parr at 304-639-9200 or local926apprenticeship@gmail.com with any questions.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex. The JATC will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship. ■

PTT Hearings Held

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regulations," said Szollosi.

The proposed plant site is the former location of the R.E. Burger coal-fired power plant which has been an industrial site since the 1920s.

The project has been under development by PTT Global for many years and originally was estimated as a \$5 billion investment.

When South Korea's Daelim Industrial Co. joined, the project scope doubled and led to major redesign work setting the timeline back.

News reports indicate more than \$150 million has been already spent

for engineering and design work.

Bechtel Construction has been awarded the contract to build the facility and has entered into a project labor agreement with the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades.

"The project is more than just an ethane cracker, it will be a plastics and chemical manufacturing location," said Szollosi. "Instead of shipping the ethane, that is a by-product of the shale gas, to the gulf coast or overseas it will be made into products locally which, in turn, means more local jobs." ■

Honoring Veteran Mike Oldham, II Plumbers & Pipefitters 625 Charleston has Fourth Annual Food Drive for Veterans

Members of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 625 in Charleston, led by apprentices, held their fourth annual food drive to help veterans during the holidays.

They collected and distributed 6200 food items in 85 baskets in partnership with VFW Post #4768.

The effort is also a remembrance of Mike Oldham, II a member of Local 625 and a decorated soldier who

served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He was tragically killed in a 2016 motorcycle accident.

According to Training Director Brett Matthews each food basket had \$105 worth of items. The apprentices raised the funds and collected the items and the VFW delivered them to veterans in need.

"Each year we challenge the apprentices and they have met and

Logan County School

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Trades Council.

"Tax payers paid for quality and timeliness and in Logan County they got neither."

According to the contract documents a penalty, known as liquidated damages, of \$2,000 per day was possible for each day the project was not substantially complete after the agreed upon date of June 30, 2018.

In this case liquidated damages could have reached almost \$300,000 but it is unclear what, if any, were demanded.

"We have heard the board of education has tried very hard to get this project completed and hold this contractor accountable," said Efaw.

"What is less clear is what action, if any, the architect or State School Building Authority will do to make sure this doesn't happen again."

There are a number of actions available through state law and SBA policy. A contractor that has performed poorly can be suspended from bidding SBA projects.

State debarment proceedings could also be used to prohibit the contractor from bidding any tax

funded projects.

There is no indication at this time the contractor will be prevented in any way from bidding more public projects.

State law requires a public project be competitively bid and awarded to the lowest responsible contractor.

Identifying the lowest bid is usually easy but determining who is a responsible contractor can be more difficult.

The SBA has in place a series

of questions to clarify if a contractor is responsible. The questions delve into the contractors' track record on prior projects, any violations of state or federal laws and regulations, their ability to secure a trained and local workforce, and other factors.

"Repealing our prevailing wage law opened the door to low wage contractors who may look good on bid day but end up costing taxpayers more at the end of the day," said Efaw.

"The Republican legislative leaders should take responsibility for the Chapmanville School because they are the ones who promised savings and failed to deliver." ■

exceeded the challenge for a very worthy cause," said Matthews. This year the group was able to increase the number of baskets to 85 from last

years 75.

Local 625 is based in Charleston and serves 15 counties in southern West Virginia. ■



Apprentices from Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 625 in Charleston stand behind piles of food supplies while members of VFW Post #4768 sit in front.

Operating Engineers #132 Apprenticeship

Operating Engineers Local 132 wants qualified candidates for their heavy duty equipment operator apprenticeship program.

The three year program trains in all aspects of operating heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, cranes and excavators.

"We want members to be well versed in all types of equipment," said Allen Nelson, Training Director. "We focus on safety and productivity."

Each year an apprentice spends five weeks at the training center located south of Parkersburg.

Most of the training takes place during the winter.

Apprentices must get at least 1,000 hours of paid on-the-job training to advance each year.

Applications will be accepted at any WorkForce West Virginia Center from January 7 through 18 between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm,

Monday through Thursday; 9:00am to 5:00pm on Friday.

In order to qualify a person must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent and have been a resident of West Virginia for at least one year.

An aptitude test will be given by the WorkForce Center.

A successful applicant will have a valid WV driver's license, be physically able to perform the work of the trade and pass a drug test.

The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination because of age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identification), sexual orientation, or genetic information and will conform to ADA regulations.

For more information call (304) 273-4852. ■

Tri-State Building Trades Council Holds Annual Customer Appreciation Event

The Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council held its annual Customer Appreciation Christmas Breakfast in Ashland, Kentucky on December 7.

On hand were representatives of the Trades, contractors and a variety of customer representatives who use the trades in the region.

Speakers were from AEP, Mara-

thon, APG Polytech, Marshall University, Braidy Industries, and Cabell-Huntington Hospital.

Mark Johnson, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades, explains the event is a way to build better communications among the customer users of our construction services, our signatory contractors and the craft union representatives of

each local union.

And it is also a way to express appreciation for the work opportunities for union members.

"Without the customers, along with our contractors, our membership simply wouldn't have a place

to work," said Johnson. "It's a three legged stool and we are one third of it."

The Tri-State Building Trades covers 33 counties of which 17 counties are in eastern KY, 10 in southern OH, and 6 in southwest WV. ■



Gil Rogers (right) of APG Polytech, LLC (formerly M & G Polymers) speaks at the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council's Annual Customer Appreciation Christmas Breakfast in Ashland, Kentucky on December 7.

IBEW 466 Volunteers



Members of IBEW Local 466, Charleston (from right) Dana Fizer, Aaron Moles, Michael Rakes, Travis Cox and son are among the eight craft teams from the Charleston Building Trades that rang the Salvation Army bell during the weekend of December 8.

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&
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