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Longview Power Gets Final Permit

Developers of Longview Power LLC finally received approval from the state Public Service Commission (PSC), on June 26, to begin work on their coal-fired power project in Monongalia County.

The 600 mega-watt power plant project is now estimated to cost \$1.2 billion to build. According to Natalie Stone, Executive Director of the North Central West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council, the coal-fired plant will provide 1,200 union jobs for about three years.

Longview has agreed to hire local union workers for the construction project and will provide them with livable wages, health insurance, and pension plans.

"It's been a long fight, since 2001," said Stone. "Our members deserve much of the credit

because they showed up at endless meetings and public hearings to make sure local workers had a voice. They're ready to get started building it."

The plant will use approximately 2 million tons of coal per year and will have 60 full time jobs when it is in operation.

The PSC issued a conditional certificate in August of 2004 given certain conditions were met.

At the time, the length and route of the transmission line had not been determined. Allegheny Power and Longview have been feuding over the details. Ultimately, Longview routed the line

This latest permit resolved these outstanding issues and allows for construction of the transmission line.

The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council filed a Petition to Intervene in October last year to make sure the PSC understood the substantial impact the construction of the proposed facility would have on the local economy and local employment.

The PSC received numerous protests of Longview's project.

Concerns included acid rain and noise pollution coming from conveyor belts that will bring coal into the plant.

The PSC imposed a number of requirements along with the permit in their 135 page order.

Construction must begin within three years and the plant must be completed within eight.

During construction, noise must be limited, most work must

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"OUR MEMBERS DESERVE MUCH OF THE CREDIT..." NATALIE STONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH CENTRAL WV BUILDING TRADES

Opponents have 30 days to file an appeal to the state Supreme Court of Appeals. The court will then have to decide whether or not to hear the case.

A number of legal appeals have already been won by Longview including a challenge to the property tax deal made with the county commission, and appeals to both air and water permits.

around Allegheny's property.

The PSC had also requested more detailed plans, a noise impact/mitigation study, evidence of financial viability, and evidence of the taxes Longview would pay if it was not under a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement that will bring in \$105 million for the negotiated payment of property taxes.

Painters Host Eastern Panhandle Event

Painter's District Council 53, held an industry event Saturday, June 24, at the Martinsburg Holiday Inn to encourage non-union painting and drywall contractors to learn about the union.

According to Jerry Huffman, Organizer for Painter's DC 53, invitations were sent out to 50 non-union painting and drywall contractors in the Eastern Panhandle, to explain the benefits of union membership.

"We're looking for every positive angle," said Huffman. "It's called Top-Down Organizing, which is getting people to join in a positive way."

Ten contractors showed up and they were very interested, especially in the amount of manpower available within the union

and the speed in which they could all be reached.

The Painters addressed training, the apprenticeship program,

and health and safety.

They also explained their WARN safety system, which is a computerized method in which

all of the members in the entire district council can be contacted in about 40 seconds.

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PAINTER'S DC 53 BUSINESS Manager Richard Hackney leads a discussion with eastern panhandle contractors about the benefits of working union at a recent industry event held in Martinsburg.

Counties Pass Responsible Bidding Resolution

County Commissioners in Wetzel and Tyler Counties have recently passed 'Responsible Bidder' resolutions at the urging of local union representatives.

The resolutions are similar to the guidelines developed by the state

School Building Authority and resolutions passed a few years ago in Ohio and Marshall Counties.

The purpose is to make sure there are guidelines when awarding public works projects to the lowest responsible bidder.

"Everyone knows what lowest means, but what about responsible?" said Joe Bowen, Organizer, WV Laborers DC.

The resolution has 18 points that identify different performance measures of bidders.

Some include past history of performance on similar projects, whether or not the contractor pays into health, pension or training programs, compliance with laws such as workers compensation or wage and safety requirements, and if the contractor hires

local workers.

Bowen and ACT's Walter 'Fuzz' LaRue attended meetings of both the Tyler and Wetzel County Commissions during April and May to talk with Commissioners about the resolution.

In both cases they were well received and during the months were able to answer questions regarding the proposals.

Being able to show the resolutions have withstood legal challenges, such as when Cabela's was built in Ohio County, helped make the case.

The efforts paid off on June 14 when the Wetzel County Commission unanimously passed the resolution.

The Tyler County Commission

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In WV 99% Lose Under Bush Tax Policy

A new report finds the "borrow-and-spend" fiscal policies of the Bush administration have saddled most West Virginians with a debt burden that far exceeds the value of tax cuts they've received since 2001.

The report was prepared by the public interest research and advocacy organization Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ).

New estimates of how the

Bush tax cuts affect taxpayers at different income levels between 2001 and 2006 are calculated.

The report shows tax cuts have been paid for with borrowed money - which ultimately must be paid by taxpayers through tax hikes or spending cuts. Middle-income West Virginians face a six-year total tax cut averaging \$1,569 per family member, but the same person faces \$8,412 of new debt to pay for the cuts.

Only the wealthiest one percent of West Virginians are left better off as a result

of the Bush fiscal policies. For this lucky group a total six-year tax cut means a net gain of \$4,257 comparing cuts to new debt.

"Ninety-nine percent of West Virginia's families lose under the

President's policies," said Steve White, ACT Director. "For every dollar we get in a tax cut, we are saddled with \$4.44 dollars of new debt. It's like dealing with a loan shark."

"This report shows what most

of us already knew: that there's no such thing as a free lunch," said CTJ Director Robert S. McIntyre. "Low- and middle-income West Virginians are paying for the huge tax cuts going to the wealthiest one percent of Americans."

UA Local 486 Taking Applications For WV Apprenticeship

UA Local 486 Plumbers & Steamfitters Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee will be accepting applications for their Martinsburg, WV apprenticeship.

Applications will be accepted through July 29, 2006.

The program teaches plumbing, welding, HVAC and CAD skills. Starting pay is \$15.13 plus benefits.

Applications can be submitted at 5521 Tabler Station Road, Inwood, WV 25428, Monday

through Friday from 8:00 to 3:00.

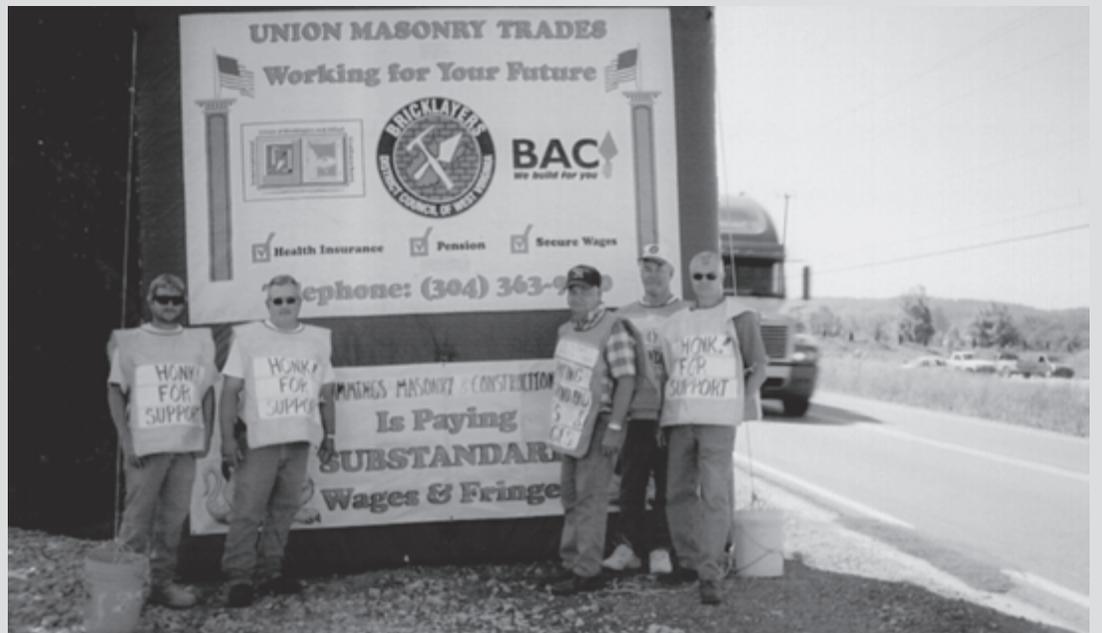
If you would like an application mailed or have any questions, please call 1-866-760-4860 and press "0" for the operator.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid drivers license. Applicants should live in Allegany, Washington, or Frederick Counties in MD or Berkeley, Jefferson, or Morgan Counties in WV.

A math test, as well as a physical and drug screening will be required.

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

Trades Protect Community Wage Standards



PROTECTING COMMUNITY WAGE standards are members of the Bricklayers and Laborers Unions (from left) Todd Mullenix, Billy Steele, Paul Adkinson, Charlie Qualls with the Bricklayers, and Henry Neal, with the Laborers.

Cummings Masonry & Construction Company, from St. Albans, is working on a Schwan's Ice Cream building in Fraziers Bottom, WV.

According to Steve Ruble, Organizer for the Bricklayers DC, a member asking for a job was told the pay would be between \$10 and \$12 per hour with no mention of any benefits.

"Contractors that pay below area wages and benefits do nothing more than deteriorate the standard of living that good union wages have created over the years," said Ruble.

The protest started in mid-June.

Ruble also believes Cummings was issued a cease and desist order in June by the WV Division of Labor for not having a proper wage bond.

Bill to Block Windmills Defeated

A Special Session of the legislature held during June had a surprise agenda item aimed at stopping all wind power projects in the state.

The measure failed, thanks to a fight led by the ACT Foundation and several wind power developers.

Governor Manchin called the special session to deal with a sexual predator bill that failed to pass during the regular session.

The Governor sets the agenda for a special session, only the issues on his "call" are to be brought before the legislature.

About a dozen bills were on the call including one mandating a moratorium on all wind projects for six months that were "located within twenty nautical

miles of an airport that accommodates military aircraft."

The bill called for a study of the effect windmills have on radar systems and implied the United States Department of Defense and the United States Department of Homeland Security wanted the study.

But it became clear to staff from ACT and the State Building Trades that there was something else going on.

"The bill was crafted to stop the Beech Ridge project in Greenbrier County being developed by Invenergy," said ACT Representative Wayne Rebich.

Rebich believes the reference to national security was only used to focus on the Greenbrier project and not other projects under development in the state.

Since the Greenbrier project

had already received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration the argument quickly fell apart that the federal government wanted the bill.

"Legislators were saying, 'let the federal government pass their own bill if they see a problem' and that started getting folks trying to figure out what was really going on," said Rebich.

The bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee but Chairman Jeff Kessler, (D-Marshall), refused to take it up.

In the House the bill was not assigned to any committee and was quickly moved ahead on floor votes through its first and second readings.

The North Central WV Building Trades got calls in to Governor Manchin and the legislature and ACT put out a letter

to legislators letting them know Labor opposed the bill.

The WV AFL-CIO signed onto the letter and word quickly spread that voting in support of the moratorium would be considered a vote against Labor.

Wind project developers also had a strong presence at the Capital.

Invenergy had just finished a week of public hearings as part of their Beech Ridge application to the Public Service Commission.

U.S. Windforce has a project, Liberty Gap, under development in Pendleton County and it was not clear if their site would fall under the moratorium.

As time ran out, and more questions were asked than answered, the bill died.

The session started Tuesday, June 13 and ended June 15.

Longview

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

be done during daylight hours, and the company is prohibited from creating a noise impact at the Fort Martin Church during normally scheduled weekend church activities and services.

The company must install noise monitors and develop a noise complaint-handling plan.

Longview also must show it has complied with all wetlands rules and regulations.

In addition, Longview must set aside \$3 million to dismantle and remove the plant if such a need were to arise until the plant has operated for five years.

Painters

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

A representative from the Finishing Contractors Association, Jay Weaver, came from Washington D.C. to speak to the guests, and the Labor Management Cooperative Initiative's Ralph Traillo came to explain the positive benefits of working with the union. Traillo was once the president of Cannon and Slice, which at the time, was the biggest painting company in the world.

One of the challenges the Painters face in the Eastern Panhandle is the lack of a local contractor base, which they are trying to build. According to Huffman they are getting work, but it is coming from the outside.

Also, there is an increasing number of Hispanic workers in the area the Painters would like to organize.

"Our Council is looking to host more of these events in the future," said Huffman. The Tri-State area, Morgantown, Wheeling and Parkersburg are some of the places being considered.

Annual Dad's Day Event Held

The Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades held their annual Dad's Day Fun Shoot to raise money for the 'Dollars Against Diabetes' campaign.

The event was held on Saturday, June 17 at Hilltop Sports, LLC in Whipple, OH.

"We have an enthusiastic group who believe in the cause of finding a cure for diabetes and enjoy participating in the event," said Sam Davis, Business Manager for the Building Trades.

Davis also noted that Kinsey M. Robinson, International President of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, and his wife participated in the event this year.

Robinson got the best score for the day.

Dollars Against Diabetes is a

national program started by the Building Trades to fund research into finding a cure for diabetes.

Building Trades Councils across the U.S. and Canada hold a variety of events each year around

Father's Day as a way to raise money for and bring attention to the effort.



SUPPORTING DIABETES RESEARCH on Father's Day was the goal of this year Dad's Day Fun Shoot. Joining the Parkersburg-Marietta group was Kinsey Robinson, International President of the Roofers Union and his wife.

AGREEMENT ON LOCAL UNION WORKERS IN PLACE

Ground Breaking Held for \$278 Million Hospital

After years of waiting, ground was finally broken for the new United Hospital Center (UHC) on June 29.

The West Virginia Health Care Authority approved UHC's certificate of need in October of 2003. But legal actions have kept the project from moving forward.

From the start UHC had to prove the local community could support a new hospital and they also had to deal with opposition from the supporters of Fairmont

General, in Marion County, who were concerned UHC might force their hospital to close.

Early in the planning process the North Central West Virginia Building Trades and UHC signed a Project Labor Agreement for the job.

That means the \$278 million dollar project will be built with all local union labor.

"We've got a project labor agreement that guarantees local workers will do this work and the money will stay in the state," said Darwin Snyder, President of North Central.

Snyder also points out that all

construction workers will participate in health care plans, another important aspect to the deal.

ACT intervened at the Health Care Authority and the April 2005 Supreme Court in support of the project.

The new UHC will be a 681,440 square foot, 289 bed, eight-level facility. At its peak the project will utilize 600 construction workers.

The project is scheduled to be done by the Fall of 2009.

Centex Construction, a construction manager from Nashville, Tennessee, will be in charge of building the project.

About 150 people attended the event including the hospital board of directors, doctors, representatives of North Central, and other business people. The audience observed via closed-circuit television, to accommodate them more comfortably.

According to Snyder the trades were praised by Gover-

nor Joe Manchin and Bruce Carter, President and CEO of UHC.

Governor Manchin commented the building trades never asked the state to bail them out with pension funds and health insurance. Carter said how pleased he was to be working with such professional people.



BRUCE CARTER, PRESIDENT and CEO of UHC addresses a gathering at the ground breaking ceremony.

IBEW Supports Clay Center Event

IBEW Local 466 is sponsoring a 'Summer Fun Day' to mark the third anniversary of the Clay Center.

The event will be held on Sunday, July 23 from 12:00 till 5:00 p.m. and is open free to all.

Summer Fun Day will feature

music, games, food, tours of the facility and special programs such as learning about instruments used by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

"We sponsored the event because we want union members to come and enjoy this great Clay Center we all built," said Dave Efaw, Business Manager

for Local 466.

"It's a great event to take your family to and it's free."

The Clay Center is a major landmark in Charleston dedicated to promoting art, music, science, and drama.

Local union building trades workers built the facility which opened in 2003.

Take exit 100 off of I-64/77 in Charleston. The Clay Center is located to the left at the end of the ramp.

**Clay Center - FREE
Noon - 5 PM
Sunday, July 23.**

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Counties

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sion followed suit at their June 28 meeting where the resolution also passed unanimously.

Bowen and LaRue plan to go to more county commissions to talk about the resolution.

"Getting a job done on time, and done right, is worth money," said LaRue. "And using local workers who have benefits helps the local economy."