

# 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; Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

Charleston - (304) 345-7570  
Toll Free - (800) 930-9675  
www.actvw.org



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## SUCCESS WILL MEAN MORE COAL-FIRED POWER PROJECTS CARBON SEQUESTRATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT COMPLETED

Union trades workers put the finishing touch this month on a major new innovation for coal-fired power plants.

The \$12 million effort is called a carbon sequestration validation project and is located at American Electric Power's Mountaineer plant in New Haven, Mason County.

Carbon sequestration uses chilled ammonia to remove an estimated 90% of carbon dioxide emissions from the

flue gas stream it processes.

The captured CO2 will be compressed and injected into two different reservoirs located 8,000 feet beneath the plant site.

According to news reports the Office of Fossil Energy within the federal Department of Energy has invested \$7.2 million, while Alstom, one of the technology partners, and AEP put up \$1.4 million. Geological investigation at Mountaineer has already cost \$4.2 million.

Area construction workers built the initial project and stand to benefit by building a new, commercial scale plant if the project is a success.

Steve Burton, Business Manager of the Tri-State Building Trades, believes the project is a logical and beneficial way to meet the nation's energy and environmental challenges.

"This project will reduce pollution, and it will create high quality jobs," said Burton. "Add to that the poten-

tial to build one or more new power plants based on the carbon capture process, and you've got a win-win situation for all involved."

George Pinkerman, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for Boilermakers Local 667 in Winfield, said his membership is enthused about the project on several levels.

"The carbon sequestration project is typical boilermakers' work," said Pinkerman.

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## APPRENTICESHIP WEBSITE UNVEILED - WVAPPRENTICESHIPS.COM

# WV APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON EXCELLENCE

The annual state apprenticeship conference featured a national speaker on the construction industry and was hailed a success by those in attendance.

Mark Breslin is well known nationally by both management and labor leaders as a straight talking critic and supporter of the industry.

Breslin is the author of a number of books including "Survival of the Fittest" and "Organize or Die."

His remarks challenged the audience to critically examine the good and bad of the union construction industry.

"What percent of members cause most of the problems," Breslin asked the audience? With answers from 10 to 20 percent he then asked how much time labor leaders spent dealing with problems - the answer was well over 80 per-

cent. "So we spend much more time dealing with poor performers instead of working to improve job prospects for the majority of members," he

concluded. Breslin urged the crowd to focus on high standards of performance as a plan for success.

His criticism was equally

sharp for contractors. "They expect you to manage the jobs for them - they don't do their own jobs and then want to blame you," he

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**SPEAKER MARK BRESLIN** talks with those in attendance at the state apprenticeship conference held September 16 and 17. Breslin is a nationally known labor-management expert in the construction industry.

## \$79 MILLION IN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION TO START 2010

# VOTERS APPROVE PUTNAM SCHOOL BOND

Putnam County voters approved a \$57 million bond on Saturday, August 29.

The vote means the county will get an additional \$22 million from the state School Building Authority all to go towards new school construction.

Trades members as well as teachers and school service personal were among the biggest supporters of the mea-

sure. Overall 56 percent of voters approved the bond.

The money will allow the county to build a new Buffalo High School, Poca Middle School, Winfield Middle School and Confidence Elementary school as well as renovate and add on to Poca Elementary School. In addition there will be a number of new auxiliary gymnasiums built.

The plan does not include

any school consolidations, an issue that often causes controversy.

The SBA approved the \$22 million grant over two years under its "Needs Grant" at an April 20 meeting contingent on county bond passage.

If the bond measure had not passed the SBA money would have gone to a different county.

"We really need the improved facilities to provide

a modern education for our children," said Gary Tillis, Business Manager for the Laborers District Council and Putnam County Commissioner.

Tillis noted the main part of Poca Middle School was built in 1926. The Winfield Middle School sixth and seventh graders go to class in portable classrooms.

In addition old schools are costly to maintain or upgrade

for computer technology.

The projects will all follow the SBA responsible bidder policies that require bidders to show their track record on apprenticeship, drug testing, timely performance, benefit payments and regulatory compliance.

In 2001 voters turned down a \$36 million school bond measure. The last school bond to pass the county was in 1976.

## APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS DUE BY OCTOBER 9

# IRON WORKERS 301 STARTS NEW CLASS

The Iron Workers Local 301 Apprenticeship Training Program in Charleston

is accepting applications for their Winter term.

Applications are taken year

round, Monday thru Friday, at 2425 Hampshire Drive in Charleston, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through

Friday.

To be considered the class you must submit your application no later than Friday, October 9, 2009.

An aptitude test will be given on October 10 with interviews on October 17.

The Iron Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Program teaches in the classroom as well as on the job.

Classes are held two nights a week, allowing on the job learning while getting paid.

The goal is to educate new workers how to safely, efficiently, and effectively perform all aspects of the trade.

Classes consist of a variety of applications including structural, ornamental, and reinforcing, as well as mathematics, welding, and rigging.

The Apprenticeship is a three year program starting at 60% of Journeyman scale with full benefits.

Increases are given every six months until training is complete.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and

live, for at least the last year, in the area covered by Local 301 which includes the WV Counties of Boone, Braxton, Clay, Fayette, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Webster, Wyoming and part of Randolph.

Also included are Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, Wise and Washington Counties in Virginia, and Pike County Kentucky.

If selected, a drug test will be required.

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

For more information contact Rick Barker, Apprenticeship Coordinator, at 304-342-5343.

### ACT Report Address Corrections Wanted

Call: 1-800-930-9675

Email: [stevewhite@actwv.org](mailto:stevewhite@actwv.org)

or mail to:

ACT

600 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON HEALTH CARE HELD



LOCAL CITIZENS, INCLUDING many from labor, rallied to support health care reform before a Town Hall meeting with Senator Jay Rockefeller held at the University of Charleston. "We need health care reform now," said Dave Efav, (holding sign on left) Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades. "We wanted to make sure those against health reform didn't disrupt the meeting." Meetings took place across the state in August.

# SUPREME COURT DENIES IPI CHALLENGE

The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in a 5 - 0 ruling refused to grant painting contractor IPI Inc., a 'writ of mandamus' meant to force the state to award it a bridge cleaning and painting contract.

The September 3 ruling ended a long struggle aimed at enforcing state law forbidding those who are in default to the state from getting construction contracts.

IPI was low bidder for the contract earlier this year but Painters Council 53 working with ACT let state officials know IPI President Matthew Joey Taylor owed the state

Insurance Commission thousands of dollars in back workers compensation premiums.

The debt came during Taylor's role with a now defunct company called North American Construction Inc.

In a 2005 Supreme Court ruling IPI was able to avoid responsibility for North Americans workers compensation debt. The opinion, written by former Justice Elliot 'Spike' Maynard, overturned a Kanawha County Circuit Court ruling holding IPI liable for North Americans debt.

Not all the assets of North American transferred to IPI and Maynard concluded the

Workers Compensation Lien for \$62,192 against Taylor in Kanawha County in 1999.

The law clarifies that a related party includes the debtor or the debtors spouse.

Therefore it was Taylor himself, and the fact he and his wife were

the sole officers and owners of IPI, that blocked the new contract award.

ACT attorney Vince Trivelli was allowed to file a brief in the case supporting the state's actions.

"We applaud ACT's effort to make sure tax payer funds only go to responsible contractors," said Rick Hackney, Business Manager for Painters Council 53.

*"WE APPLAUD ACT'S EFFORT TO MAKE SURE TAX PAYER FUNDS ONLY GO TO RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTORS," RICK HACKNEY, BUSINESS MANAGER, PAINTERS COUNCIL 53*

new company IPI was substantially different.

What was new in the current case was a law ACT helped pass stating a contractor, or related party, who owes more than \$1,000 to the state can not get a state contract.

Public records show the state Bureau of Employment Programs filed a Notice of

## Annual Sporting Clay Event

Sunday, October 4 at Noon  
Hunting Hills, Dilliner, PA

**Sponsored by the North Central WV Building Trades Council**

**Interested in participating?  
Please contact 304-626-3882  
no later than Sept 29 to register.**

## NO. CENTRAL TAILGATE EVENT



TRADES MEMBERS AND their families enjoy the North Central WV Building Trades tailgate event at the September 5 WVU - Liberty football game. According to Natalie Stone, Executive Secretary, around 200 people stopped by.

## CONFERENCE

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

said.

Breslin was one of many speakers who covered topics of safety, equal employment opportunities, workers compensation, green jobs and more.

"Overall it was an excellent conference," said Odie Parkins, Training Coordinator for the Carpenters.

"Breslin challenged us all, but in a way that gave great

ideas we can work with."

"The main focus of his remarks hit home - we should ask for excellence from our membership and be proud of the quality we can produce."

Also at the two day conference a new apprenticeship web site was unveiled - [wvapprenticeships.com](http://wvapprenticeships.com).

The web site provides space for each apprenticeship program in the state and a convenient map that allows those looking for a program easy searching.

# BEECH RIDGE WIND TURBINE PROJECT SURVIVES ANOTHER COURT CHALLENGE

The WV Supreme Court refused to take two cases aimed at stopping the Beech Ridge wind project in Greenbrier County.

Both cases asked the court

to overturn the Public Service Commissions permit to approve the 124 turbine project.

Currently phase one - 67 turbines - is under construction.

“Just the Operating En-

gineers alone have had over 65 members working on this project,” said Ronnie Burdette, Business Manager for Operating Engineers Local 132. “It will produce clean energy when complete and is

really helping local construction workers make it through tough times today.”

For both appeals the court refused by a 5 - 0 vote. The ruling was made on September 2.

This is one of many legal hurdles the project has had to overcome but it is not the last.

A Federal Judge in Maryland has been asked to hear arguments regarding the endangered species act and whether the developer, Invenenergy LLC, has violated that law and threatened a species called the Indiana Bat.

An October 21 court date has been set.

## Tri-State Building Trades Hosts Marshall Tailgate Event

Saturday, October 3  
Marshall v. East Carolina

**Food starts at 10:30 - Game starts at noon - Lunch at half-time**  
The Tri-State Building Trades Council invites all affiliated trades members and their families to a Tailgate Party at 2nd Avenue & 20th Street - across from State Electric.

**Refreshments Provided.**

**For game tickets affiliated local unions may contact the  
Tri-State Building Trades Council at 606-324-9880.**

## CARBON

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

“And in order to meet the demand for that work, we’ve increased our capacity to train our members, we’re continually recruiting and taking applications every day.

Membership is up 30 percent. We’re ready to do the job.”

Pinkerman added that the benefits of a successful project extend beyond his organization and into the entire state by creating a stable demand for West Virginia coal.

“West Virginia has hundreds of years of coal left to mine,” noted Pinkerman. “We need to use it and we can use it by building cleaner, more efficient power plants.”

The project is termed a

“validation” because it will test “carbon capture” as a process of reducing harmful emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The validation will be on a relatively small scale capturing only a percentage of the carbon released by the power plant, but if successful, the project will lead to construction of a new AEP facility where a much greater percentage of the carbon could be captured.

AEP has plans to build a second, 235 MW commercial-scale capture plant on the Mountaineer site.

Both AEP and Alstom say they will be able to sell the technology commercially by 2015.

Sequestration means to separate or isolate. In the

Mountaineer plant project, sequestration occurs when carbon dioxide is captured from a 20-megawatt stream of flue gases coming from the 1300-megawatt power plant’s stacks.

The gas is run over chilled ammonia cooled down to minus 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

Once chilled, the ammonia absorbs the carbon dioxide and forms a slurry.

The slurry is later re-heated with steam to extract the carbon so the ammonia can be reused.

The CO2 is then cleaned, compressed and pump into two deep aquifers, 1 1/2 miles below the property.

At Mountaineer, AEP had already installed an injection well to test the geology.

The cost of running the

ACT Foundation  
600 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301  
(304) 345-7570

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Charleston, WV 25301



1925 Murdoch Avenue  
Parkersburg, WV 26102  
(304) 485-1421 fax 485-1487  
toll free 1 888 524-1421  
reception@uniontradesfcu.com

600 Leon Sullivan Way, Suite 101  
Charleston, WV 25301  
(304) 344-0194 fax 344-0195  
toll free 1 800 450-8530  
receptionchas@uniontradesfcu.com

process is not cheap. At full commercial scale the chilled ammonia technology will need 15 percent of a power plant’s total electricity production to run.

That also means more generating capacity would need to be built.

While there are a number of pilot projects involving carbon sequestration around the country (including Kanawha and Marshall Counties) the Mountaineer Plant project is one of the larger ones.

The WV Legislature provided support for the project

by developing regulations for permitting and monitoring of sequestration sites.

The state regulations include notice to neighboring surface owners of the sequestration operation and any problems that may arise before, during and after the sequestration process.

AEP announced the project in March 2007 and began the job a year later.

Every two hours, the Mountaineer plant burns about one barge of coal, which contains 1,200 tons, according to the company.