



A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

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

# Memorandum Signed for \$615 Million Power Plant

Project developers and the Trades have signed an agreement to use local union construction labor for a proposed \$615 million, 549 megawatt gas-fired power project in Marshall County.

The agreement was finalized in early July when a Memorandum Agreement was approved by the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades, the West Virginia State Building Trades and Moundville Power LLC.

The memorandum states that the contractor hired by Moundville Power will be required to negotiate a project labor agreement with the trades.

That's a good deal for both parties because securing a supply of skilled construction labor is important to a successful project, and knowing local workers will be employed is big for the local community.

The payroll anticipated for the project will be in the \$85 million range meaning a significant economic impact not only for local union construction workers but for the entire region.

In addition the plant will purchase approximately \$105 million in natural gas per year and create 35 operational jobs with a payroll of \$3.2 million per year.

When looking at the economic

impact from these payments, together with payments for material, equipment and supplies, and then at the impact made when workers and businesses spend those dollars, the project becomes a huge positive

boost to the economy.

However the venture still faces significant challenges, the most immediate is approval of a property tax arrangement already accepted by the

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Andrew Dorn Jr., (left) of Moundville Power LLC and Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades sign the Memorandum Agreement that could put hundreds of local union construction members to work building the \$615 million gas-fired plant in Marshall County in 2015 if the project can get the needed approvals, permits and financing. Tom Gray, President of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council, signed off on the same day after the Council voted to approve the deal.

# Charleston, Wheeling Credit Unions Merge with Union Trades Federal Credit Union

Members of two trades' related credit unions have voted to join forces with Union Trades Federal Credit Union.

Both the Charleston Electrical Workers 466 and Wheeling Plumber and Fitters Local 83 credit union

membership decided in July to merge their institutions.

The actions took place separately but for similar reasons: a larger credit union can provide more services than a smaller one. Services like checking accounts, credit cards and on-line

banking are hard to provide for small institutions but standard with Union Trades.

For the Charleston Electricians the merge became effective on July 29.

The Wheeling Plumbers & Fit-

ters vote has been ratified, and the actual merge will take place later this month.

The two groups will together bring about 1,000 new members and increase Union Trades total member-

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# Agreement Presented to County Commission Trades Promote and Support Moundsville Power Project

Members of the Upper Ohio Valley Building Trades Council delivered a signed copy of the Memorandum Agreement between the Trades and Moundsville Power LLC to the Marshall County Commission.

The \$615 million project, which will generate an estimated construction payroll of more than \$85 million, awaits approval from commissioners on a property tax proposal.

The proposal would bring in more than \$1 million per year on land that currently pays around \$2,500.

"We wanted the Commissioners to know we have a signed agreement to use local union labor to build the project," said Keith Hughes, Business Manager for Iron Workers Local 549 and a Marshall County resident.

"The wages earned by local work-

ers will have a big economic impact on the county and a major reason why the commission should approve the property tax deal."

Hughes along with ACT's Walter 'Fuzz' LaRue spoke to the Commissioners at a July 22 meeting with a number of craft representatives in attendance.

Building Trades leaders teaming up with Project BEST and the Upper Ohio Valley Contractors Association have taken a number of measures to support the project.

"We are placing billboards in support of the project," said Tom Cerra, Co-Chair of Project BEST and the Executive Director of the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council.

"And we've enlisted the support of the Wheeling and Moundsville

Chambers of Commerce, written resolutions in support, and are looking for more ways to support this important project."

The groups have also printed a postcard for supporters to sign and send to the county commission in support of the project.

Operating Engineers Local 132 has a support message on their electronic billboard.

A county commission vote on finalizing the property tax measure is expected later this month.

"We want to see the gas from our region processed here, not moved to other places in the country or world," said LaRue.

"Projects like this one mean we get jobs for local workers from the gas, not just drill and run." ■

## Credit

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ship to more than 3,600. Total assets should top \$22 million.

According to Union Trades Executive Board Chairman Terry Hudson the executive board will be expanded to provide a seat for each of the merged credit unions through March when elections are held at the annual meeting.

"This is good news for all members of the Trades and their families because it makes a stronger financial institution that is Building Trades focused," said Dianah Angert, Manager and CEO of Union Trades. "And that focus helps us understand Building Trades families, unlike your typical bank."

Union Trades was started in 1972 by members of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 565 in Parkersburg. Over the years it has grown and now is approved by federal regulators to serve all members of the West Virginia State Building Trades. ■



Marshall County Commissioners listen while ACT's Walter 'Fuzz' LaRue discusses how the Memorandum Agreement signed by the Trades and Moundsville Power LLC will mean millions in wages for local workers.

## Memorandum

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Marshall County Board of Education but pending before the Marshall County Commission.

The deal would lower the taxes for the facility but still bring in more than \$1 million per year on a piece of

property that currently pays around \$2500 per year.

Similar property tax deals have been used on almost every major industrial project built in West Virginia in the last two decades. ■

## Operator Volunteers Help Build Youth Soccer Fields



With help from Operating Engineers Local 132's Apprenticeship and Training Program a youth soccer league in Jackson County is getting 11 new soccer fields.

The effort in Ravenswood used two bulldozers and a roller along with technology donated by SiTech Mid-South, an affiliate of Walker Equipment Company.

According to Training Director Charles Parker instructors were able to use new state-of-the-art GPS technology provided by SiTech to assist reaching the proper grade.

# Ascent Project Led by Odebrecht, Braskem \$5 Billion Ethane Cracker Advances

Members of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades Council met with the developer of a proposed \$5 billion ethane cracker in Parkersburg on July 22.

The purpose was to discuss the progress of the project, revised manpower estimates needed for construction and to look for ways in which the group can partner to make the project both a reality and a success.

Much of the discussion was around the estimated 4,500 construction workers needed to build the facility.

Peebles said the project would take approximately 44 months to build but the start date was still more than 18 months away.

"This is a big deal not only for this region but on the world scene," said David Peebles, a representative of Odebrecht, the Brazilian corporation behind the project. "It takes time to get it right."

Peebles explained that many significant steps had been achieved to advance the project but there were still a number of critical areas to be resolved.

"We use a process called Front-end-loading or FELs to make a business decision and we are nearing the start of the third and last phase," said Peebles.

Some remaining issues key to the project are securing enough ethane, the raw material needed for the project.

In addition significant engineering, environmental permits, technology choices, and the selection of a contracting team need to take place. Financing will be a big hurdle as well.

"We are very excited about this project," said Bill Hutchinson, Business Manager of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades.

"But we recognize this project is not a done deal, and we want to understand how we can best help to make it a reality."

The project, called Ascent, would include an ethane cracker, three

polyethylene plants, and related power generation and waste water treatment facilities.

"It is not just this project we need to think about," said Peebles. "We are talking about an entire industry that

can grow up around this plant to include plastics, chemicals and manufacturing." ■



David Peebles (center-left) of Odebrecht leads a discussion with members of the Parkersburg-Marietta Building Trades about the \$5 billion ethane cracker and polyethylene complex proposed for Parkersburg called Ascent.

## Crafts and Contractors Raise \$6,000 for Regional Hospice

The Kanawha Valley Construction Labor-Management Council raised \$6,000 for the nonprofit HospiceCare at a July golf outing.

The two main organizations behind the event, the Charleston Building Trades Council and the Kanawha Valley Builders Association, put together 22 teams of four to participate. In addition dozens of contributors and sponsors helped make the event a success.

"We helped a worthy cause and that teamwork improves our ability to get jobs done," said Paul Breedlove, Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades.

HospiceCare, which serves a 16 county region of central and southern West Virginia, provides several programs for patients and their families whose lives have been affected by a terminal or life-limiting illness.

"Our labor-management group

has been raising funds for local charities for more than 21 years, and Hospice is an organization that everyone appreciates," said Jim Cerra, Executive Director of the Kanawha

Valley Builders Association.

For more information about HospiceCare see their web site <http://www.hospicecarewv.org> or call (800) 560-8523. ■



Paul Breedlove (left) and Jim Cerra (right) present a \$6,000 contribution to Larry Robertson, Executive Director of HospiceCare at the organizations Charleston headquarters.

# New Tax Break Used to Hire Out-of-State Contractors and Workers at Greenbrier

A recent tax break given to the Greenbrier resort by the West Virginia legislature may have created jobs, but local workers were almost entirely excluded.

Instead construction workers and contractors were imported from as far away as California to build the new \$30 million AdvoCare Sports Performance Center that will be used by the New Orleans Saints football team.

The recently completed project included three practice fields and a 50,000-square-foot facility to house locker and weight rooms and administrative offices.

“We love the Greenbrier, and we’re happy the Saints are practicing there, but we are frustrated and

disappointed that local contractors and workers didn’t even get a chance to participate,” said Paul Breedlove, Business Manager of the Charleston Building Trades Council.

The Council covers 18 counties in southern West Virginia.

Representatives from the Trades had been promised that local contractors would get a chance to bid the project, but that chance never came.

Instead contractors from places like Lexington, Kentucky, Richmond, Virginia and Madera, California enjoyed the benefits of the West Virginia tax break.

The West Virginia legislature passed a bill in the final hours of the 2014 session that amended the Tourism Development Act in a way that

benefitted only the Greenbrier.

The law allows a tax credit of up to \$2.5 million per year for ten years to a qualified investment “located at or adjacent to an existing historic resort hotel with at least five hundred rooms.”

Companies that worked in the project include general contractor Clancy & Theys and an unlicensed

At one point a union painting contractor was told they could bid the project but in the process learned the painting contract had already been awarded.

Some very small portions of the project went to local subcontractors but the vast majority was lost to the out-of-state companies.

But perhaps all is not lost says

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## Laborers Hold Members Appreciation Day



A crowd of Laborers with their families and friends can be seen from behind the stage while John Anderson performs at the Member Appreciation Day held by the West Virginia Construction Craft Laborers’ Training Center.

According to Fund Administrator Carl Reynolds a number of artists – including Lee Greenwood - thrilled approximately two thousand union members and their families at the event held on Saturday, July 26 in Mineral Wells at the training facility.

According to West Virginia Laborers Appalachian District Council Business Manager Gary Tillis the appreciation day was a fun family time with entertainment, food and games that has become a traditional event for West Virginia Laborers.

painting contractor M.P. Barden and Sons both from Richmond, Virginia.

Long Construction Management and Dixon Electric (not to be confused with Dixon Electric Systems from Huntington) came from Lexington, Kentucky, and Span Construction and Engineering from Madera, California.

Breedlove because additional projects are in the planning phase and he is working with agents from the Council to promote a project agreement for the next phase of work.

A recent Forbes magazine report listed Greenbrier owner Jim Justice as the richest man in West Virginia at \$1.6 billion. ■



Local contractors never got a chance to bid the \$30 million complex at the Greenbrier where the New Orleans Saints practice. A state tax break made the project possible and people from as far away as California got the jobs as can be seen by this cars license.