

# THE ACT REPORT

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TRADES

ACT is a division of The West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Steve Burton, President; Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer; Steve White, Director.

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



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## 33 TURBINES PROPOSED

# \$115 MILLION BEECH RIDGE WIND PROJECT WANTS PHASE TWO OK

Developers of the Beech Ridge Wind Farm have filed for permission to build an additional 33 wind turbines at their Greenbrier County location.

Each turbine will have a capacity of 1.62 megawatts making the project approximately 53.5 megawatts in total. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$115 million.

The developers, Invenergy Wind Development North America LLC, filed their application at the WV Public Service Commission in late August.

The company already has 67 turbines in operation at the site and with the additional turbines the 100 turbine project will produce 186MW. They had originally planned to build 124 turbines but ran into trouble when endangered bats were discovered.

Ultimately the company abandoned a number of locations to the east of the existing project and has applied for an 'incidental taking permit' from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to address the issue raised by the bats.

The new site is to the west of the existing turbines, approximately seven miles north of Rupert, in Greenbrier County on land owned by MeadWestvaco.

The facility will use the

existing substation and transmission lines and will not need to build any additional station or lines.

The first phase of the project was started in the summer of 2009.

White Construction from Indiana was the general contractor and built the project with crafts affiliates of the Charleston Building Trades.

After the project was stopped by the court action

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## DOMINION-HOPE GAS LOSSES AT \$25 MILLION

Dominion-Hope Gas continues to ask ratepayers to foot the bill for mounting losses that may end up on Dominion Corporations profit column.

The losses are due to their questionable practice of hedging and have resulted in more than \$22 million in extra costs to ratepayers since the hedging began in 2006.

More than \$9.5 million of those losses came during the period July 2011 to June 2012. Dominion-Hope locks in gas purchase prices in advance using a contract known as a hedge. When gas prices stayed low the hedge contracts turned out to be big losers, and now customers are being asked to pay for those losses.

The company Dominion-Hope uses for their hedging contracts is a sister company

which does not have to report their profits or losses to the Public Service Commission. That makes some wonder if the losses ratepayers are being asked to pay are also profits for the parent corporation Dominion or its subsidiary Virginia Power Energy Marketing, Inc.

According to ACT's expert George Donkin of the J.W. Wilson & Associates, Dominion-Hope losses will reach \$25.3 million by October of 2013.

ACT has asked the West Virginia Public Service Commission to hold Dominion accountable for their losses and not allow them to pass the costs on to ratepayers. Rates submitted by Dominion-Hope in August of 2011 are still under appeal and now ACT is asking to intervene for this latest round of rate re-

*Continued on p. 4*

## WV STATE TROOPER MEMORIAL SEALED



Volunteers Brad Shafer (left) and Kevin Jett from Painters District Council 53 apply the first coat of a clear sealant to columns at the I-79 bridge at Wall-back.

The columns bear inscriptions of condolences and remembrance from fellow troopers and well-wishers following the double murder of Corporal Marshall Bailey and Trooper Eric Workman of the West Virginia State Police on August 28.

Tammy Hackney, the daughter of the District Council Manager Rick Hackney, got the idea after seeing news footage of the writing on the columns.

# FIVE BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS ARE CANDIDATES FOR WV HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Five Building Trades members are candidates for the West Virginia House of Delegates in the upcoming November General Election.

PHILLIP DISERIO, from Brooke County, currently serves as a delegate from the 2nd District.

Diserio is president of IBEW 246 and the Brooke-Hancock Labor Council.

He is also vice president of the Brooke County Economic Development Authority and a member of the Brooke-Hancock Planning and Development Council.

Diserio won 3,022 votes in the primary.

The district had two delegates but



due to redistricting is now a single member district that includes portions of Ohio and Brooke Counties.

DENZIL "Buddy" MALO-

NE, of Williamstown is running for the House of Delegates in the 8th District.



Malone has been a member of Millwright Local 1755 since 2000 and has served as agent and organizer since 2006.

His position made him realize how much politics affect our everyday lives and our work.

In the primary Malone got 918 votes but his opponent, a longtime incumbent, received 1,531 votes.

DAN POLING, is running



for re-election in the 10th District, Wood County. Poling

## BEECH RIDGE

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

a settlement agreement provided for an additional 33 turbines at a westerly location once the incidental taking permit was granted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Beech Ridge started that permit process in January of 2010 and anticipates the final permit will be issued in the

second quarter of 2013.

According to their filing they will likely use GE turbines and the total height of each unit will be 429 feet high from the ground to the blade tip at the 12 o'clock position.

The company hopes to start construction in July of 2013 with completion by the end of 2013.

A contractor has not been selected.

is the director of governmental affairs for District Council 53 of the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades, and serves as an AFL-CIO vice president. Poling was a lead sponsor on strengthening the West Virginia Jobs Act, which requires hiring local workers on projects funded by our tax dollars.

Three delegates are chosen from the 10th District where Poling received 3,962 votes in the Primary.

JIMMIE WOOD, JR., is a candidate for the 14th District which is a new single member district including portions of Putnam and Mason Counties.

Wood, a lifelong resident



of Point Pleasant, is a member of IBEW 317 and also

serves on its executive board.

Wood received 58% of the vote in the primary running against two other candidates.

DAVID WALKER, of Clay County is running for his third term in the 33rd District which includes parts of Calhoun, Gilmer and Clay

Counties.

Walker is a retired member of Operating Engineers Local



132 and a former executive board member and union steward.

ard.

Walker is a pastor at Precious Community Church.

Walker won the Primary with an almost 2 -1 margin and is running unopposed in the fall.

## WV STATE BUILDING TRADES ELECTION OF OFFICERS HELD



Steve Burton (left) and Dave Efav are sworn in for new terms as President and Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building and Construction Trades Council by Kenny Perdue, President of the WV AFL-CIO.

Both were re-elected to four year terms at the State Building Trades Constitutional Convention held on August 15.

# COPE ENDORSEMENTS MADE FOR GENERAL

On Sunday, August 12, the Committee on Political Education (COPE) met to finalize their endorsement list for the November 6, 2012 elections, the results are listed below.

COPE endorses candidates after they complete a questionnaire and go through an interview process. COPE is made up of representatives from 77 affiliated international unions.

With questions, interview results and voting records in hand endorsements are made as a guide for union households.

How you and your family vote is a personal decision but please give the endorsed candidate your consideration.

Early voting starts Wednesday, October 24.

U.S. Senate  
**Joe Manchin**

U. S. House of Representatives  
**David McKinley\*** -  
1<sup>st</sup> District  
**Nick Joe Rahall** -  
3<sup>rd</sup> District

Governor  
**Earl Ray Tomblin**

Supreme Court of Appeals  
**Tish Chafin**  
**Robin Davis**

Attorney General  
**Darrell McGraw**

Secretary of State  
**Natalie Tennant**

Auditor  
**Glen Gainer**

State Treasurer  
**John Perdue**

\* Building Trades Endorsement

State Senate

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Jack Yost**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Jeff Kessler**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Mike Bright**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Bob Plymale**
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Mark Wills**
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Art Kirkendoll**
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Joshua Martin**
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Daniel Hall**
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Bill Laird**
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Doug Facemire**
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Roman Prezioso**
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Herb Snyder**

House of Delegates

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Ronnie Jones,**  
**Randy Swartzmiller**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Phil Diserio**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Shawn Fluharty,**  
**Erikka Storch**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Michael Ferro,**  
**David Sidiropolis**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Dave Pethtel**
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Buddy Malone**
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Jim Marion**
- 10<sup>th</sup> **John Ellem,**  
**Dan Poling**
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Jo Boggess Phillips**
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Helen Martin,**  
**Brady Paxton**
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Jimmie Wood Jr**
- 16<sup>th</sup> **Sean Hornbuckle,**  
**Jim Morgan**
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Doug Reynolds,**  
**Dale Stephens**
- 18<sup>th</sup> **Billy Chafin II**
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Don Perdue,**  
**Rick Thompson**
- 20<sup>th</sup> **Justin Marcum**
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Harry Keith White**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Jeff Eldridge,**  
**Josh Stowers**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Larry Barker**
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Ted Tomblin**
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Linda Goode**  
**Phillips**
- 26<sup>th</sup> **Clif Moore**
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Greg Ball,**  
**Ryan Flanigan,**  
**Billy Morefield**
- 28<sup>th</sup> **Al Martine,**  
**Jeffry Pritt**
- 29<sup>th</sup> **Ricky Moye**
- 30<sup>th</sup> **Bill Wooton**

- 31<sup>st</sup> **Clyde McKnight Jr**
- 32<sup>nd</sup> **David Perry,**  
**John Pino,**  
**Margaret Staggers**
- 33<sup>rd</sup> **David Walker**
- 34<sup>th</sup> **Brent Boggs**
- 35<sup>th</sup> **Bonnie Brown,**  
**Bobbie Hatfield,**  
**Doug Skaff Jr**
- 36<sup>th</sup> **Nancy Guthrie,**  
**Mark Hunt,**  
**Danny Wells**
- 37<sup>th</sup> **Meshea Poore**
- 38<sup>th</sup> **Virginia (Ginny)**  
**Moles**

- 41<sup>st</sup> **Adam Young**
- 42<sup>nd</sup> **Ray Canterbury,**  
**Glen Singer**
- 43<sup>rd</sup> **Denise Campbell**
- 45<sup>th</sup> **Bill Hamilton**
- 46<sup>th</sup> **Peggy Donaldson**  
**Smith**
- 47<sup>th</sup> **Mary Poling**
- 48<sup>th</sup> **Ron Fragale,**  
**Richard Iaquina,**  
**Tim Miley**
- 49<sup>th</sup> **Michael Manypenny**
- 50<sup>th</sup> **Mike Caputo,**  
**Linda Longstreth,**  
**Tim Manchin**

- 51<sup>st</sup> **Anthony Barill,**  
**Barbara Fleischauer,**  
**Nancy Jamison,**  
**Charlene Marshall,**  
**Billy Smerka**
- 52<sup>nd</sup> **Larry Williams**
- 53<sup>rd</sup> **Stan Shaver**
- 56<sup>th</sup> **Jim Maybury**
- 57<sup>th</sup> **Ruth Rowan**
- 61<sup>st</sup> **Michael Jason**  
**Barrett**
- 63<sup>rd</sup> **Donn E. Marshall**
- 65<sup>th</sup> **Tiffany Lawrence**
- 66<sup>th</sup> **John Reese Maxey**
- 67<sup>th</sup> **Stephen Skinner**

## CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL MEETS WITH TRI-STATE TRADES



Members of the Tri-State Building & Construction Trades Council met with Congressman Nick Joe Rahall at the offices of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 317 in Huntington in mid-August.

Rahall, a long-time friend of the Building Trades, is running for re-election in the 3rd Congressional District. His opponent is getting funding not only from rich donors but also from secret undisclosed backers thanks to new legal rulings that call corporations people.

From left - Jim Gillette, Business Manager of IBEW Local 317; Shane Wolfe, Business Agent; Pete Vaughn; Skip Bailey, Organizer; Paul Gatens, Business Agent - all from IBEW 317; Congressman Nick Joe Rahall; Steve Burton, Business Manager, Tri-State Building Trades; Steve Keller, Business Manager, Insulators Local 80; Tommy Plymale, Business Manager, Operating Engineers Local 132; and Dave Efaw, WV State Building Trades.

# \$2 BILLION PATH PROJECT CANCELED

The \$2 billion electric transmission line called PATH has been canceled.

The action came as the organization that operates the electric grid, called PJM Interconnection, announced in August that the project was no longer necessary.

That same organization

had called for the project to be built back in 2007 to create a more reliable electric grid.

The 765-kilovolt Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline was to run from AEP's John Amos plant in Putnam County to Maryland with a major substation planned in Hardy County and

the Maryland tie-in.

A project labor agreement had been worked out assuring the project would have been built by building trades craft workers.

Opposition slowed the regulatory approval process which was taking place in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland. The economic

downturn appears to have led to the fatal blow.

In addition new natural gas discoveries make it more likely that future electrical needs will be fueled by natural gas rather than coal.

In announcing the cancellation of PATH a PJM spokesman noted five new power plants were to be added in the

region, three in New Jersey, one in Delaware and one in Maryland.

"This is a blow to West Virginia's economy because it means future electric generation will be taking place in other states not here," said Dave Efaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the WV State Building Trades.

## GOVERNOR TOMBLIN SPEAKS AT STATE BUILDING TRADES



Governor Earl Ray Tomblin was the keynote speaker at the WV State Building Trades convention held in August.

Tomblin outlined areas he wants to continue to focus on as Governor including education, infrastructure and making sure local workers and contractors benefit from the Marcellus Shale development.

Tomblin is running for re-election for Governor and is endorsed by both the State Building Trades and the WV AFL-CIO.

## DOMINION

*CONTINUED FROM P. 1*

views submitted in August of this year by Dominion-Hope.

"They are losing money by locking in high prices for future contracts, but we also have learned the parent company may very well be profiting from these same contracts," said Steve White, ACT Director.

During the case Donkin's

review of the records revealed that the company used for the hedging contracts was another Dominion affiliate.

Dominion-Hope uses their sister company, Virginia Power Energy Marketing, Inc., to lock in on high prices. Virginia Power Energy Marketing is part of the Dominion family but is not regulated, so there is no public record showing how they profit from the deals.

"Dominion-Hope claims they don't make money from these deals, and they are right," said White. "But they won't disclose how much their sister company makes, and that may have an impact on why they continue to make these bad deals, they lose money to their sister company, and the ratepayers foot the bill."

Dominion-Hope filed a new round of rates on Au-

gust 1. Their proposed rates include a decrease in the cost they pay for natural gas. But the decrease comes on the heels of a much larger approved increase.

"It's hard to get excited about a decrease in prices

when you realize they just got a huge increase last year, at the same time we see the lowest prices in years for natural gas," said White.

Dominion-Hope is fighting ACT's request to participate in the rate review.

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

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(304) 344-0194 fax 344-0195  
toll free 1 877 593-6093

reception@uniontradesfcu.com