

Beech Ridge Energy Signs Agreement to Hire Local Workers

Beech Ridge Energy LLC has signed an agreement with the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO to utilize local labor on the construction of its \$300 million Beech Ridge Wind Farm project that will be located near the town of Rupert in Western Greenbrier County. Over 200 construction workers will be used to construct the wind turbines.

"We need skilled workers who possess the training necessary to complete this project. Beech Ridge Energy's management is pleased that we have reached this agreement to utilize West Virginia workers. This agreement is part of our company philosophy to use local goods and services during the wind farms construction and operational stages," said Project Director Dave Groberg of Beech Ridge Energy LLC.

"As this project moves forward, we will begin using local businesses and workers to build and maintain the turbines, as well as maintain the property surrounding them."

The Beech Ridge Wind Farm will hire 20 full time employees and will have an annual average payroll of \$700,000 per year upon completion. A copy of the company's West Virginia Public Service Commission's application is available for public review at the Greenbrier and Nicholas County Clerk's Offices and at the Town Halls in Rupert, Rainelle and Richwood.

"Because we represent hundreds of members in Greenbrier and surrounding counties, this agreement forms a perfect partnership for us, the company and community. West Virginia's union construction workers have the experience and skills to handle this type of work," stated Mike Matthews, Business Manager of Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council.

Roy Smith, Secretary-Treasurer of the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council and Karen Price, President of the West Virginia Manufacturers Association attended the signing ceremony which was held before a crowd of AFL-CIO members following the group's annual legislative conference.

"Wind energy is essential to our national energy policy and is an integral part of West Virginia's economic prosperity. Beech Ridge Energy represents a major project that will have a significant economic impact on West Virginia's construction workers and their families," said Roy Smith.

"In recent years, West Virginia has lost significant portions of its manufacturing sector. This new wave of manufacturing is helping to produce electric power that can be purchased at a stable price, while having a minimal impact on the environment," stated Karen Price, President of the West Virginia Manufacturers Association.

The Beech Ridge Wind Farm is a proposed 186-megawatt wind energy project that will be located near Rupert, West Virginia. It will be built along a few isolated ridgelines in rural northern Greenbrier County that have been forested and/or mined and are currently managed by MeadWestvaco Corporation. Beech Ridge will supply enough clean, renewable domestic energy to satisfy the electricity demands of more than 50,000 households. Beech Ridge Energy LLC will be owned and operated on a long-term basis by Invenergy Wind LLC.

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