

Fall/Winter 2013

## Governor's Office of Appalachia appalachia.development.ohio.gov



WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OHIOANS LIVING IN THE 32-COUNTY REGION

## Governor Kasich Visits Scio and Springfield Township

*Natural gas facilities bring hundreds of jobs and more than \$1 billion in investment to the Appalachian Region*

It was a great day for our state, especially the Appalachian region, as Ohioans celebrated the official opening of two new oil and gas processing and fractionation facilities – Pennant Midstream, LLC in Mahoning County and Utica East Ohio (UEO) Buckeye in Harrison County. These are part of an ever-improving outlook for Ohio's Utica shale formation.

Together, these projects account for hundreds of construction jobs, more than 200 long-term positions and more than \$1.3 billion in capital investment. The day started in Springfield Township in Mahoning County at the Pennant Midstream, LLC site, where Governor Kasich joined local officials and representatives to celebrate the new Hickory Bend processing plant.



Hickory Bend represents a \$475 million investment that is generating 500 construction jobs and will require 20 full-time employees to run the day-to-day operations once it's online in December 2013.

The plant will separate dry natural gas from natural gas liquids. The dry gas will be transported for delivery to homes and businesses and the liquids will be converted into products such as butane, ethane and propane.

"There is a significant amount of collaboration and discussion with the local and state government on what's best for the community and our presence here. We appreciate the welcome we have received by Mahoning and Columbiana counties, and especially Springfield Township. And a special thank you to Governor Kasich and his administration for his forward-looking policies and welcoming of the natural gas industry to his state," said Robert C. Skaggs, Jr., president and chief executive officer of NiSource.

Governor Kasich then traveled to Scio in Harrison County to help open UEO Buckeye's Harrison Hub. Over the next five years, this new plant will pump nearly \$1 billion into the state economy.

The processing plant near Kensington and the fractionation plant at the Harrison Hub in Scio employ a full-time staff of 50, along with 13 individuals assigned to rail operations. At the end of 2014, the UEO Buckeye system will employ 115 people at the plants and 30 rail personnel.



"The construction of the first phase of the UEO Buckeye system was accomplished through great teamwork between our team and Ohio's elected leaders and regulators, from Columbus down to the local governments in Scio and North Township. The spirit of partnership between our industry and the state of Ohio is a primary reason for the rapid expansion of natural gas production in the Utica Shale, and evidence of the bright future ahead for energy production here" said M3 Midstream president Frank D. Tsuru.

More than \$6.5 billion in investments have been made in midstream and pipeline projects in Ohio over the past two years, and more projects are in the works. The Utica shale play could hold great promise for Ohio. Through sound regulations that ensure safety without discouraging growth, prospects of job growth remain high across Appalachian Ohio.

# A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR WILSON

It has been a busy fall for the Governor's Office of Appalachia. Joy and I continue to travel the region, visiting local officials, business owners and community leaders. We also traveled to Charleston, West Virginia for the Appalachian Regional Commission's fall meeting and Joy participated in a transportation and export conference in Washington, D.C.

Both of these conferences provided us the opportunity to talk with our counterparts in other states and learn more about the Appalachian Regional Commission's key initiatives for the coming year.

Here in Ohio, great things continue to happen. Governor Kasich and I visited Harrison and Mahoning counties to open two new facilities that are part of the continued growth of Ohio's oil and gas industry. It was great to be on hand to tour the facilities with the Governor.



I also visited Superb Industries with David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. The team at Superb took us on a tour of their manufacturing facility and explained how the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program is helping them train their employees so they can stay competitive.



A skilled workforce is an important component of attracting companies to Ohio. Earlier this year, the Governor's Office of Appalachia helped the Swiss Hill Career Center (Monroe County) purchase training equipment for its welding program. When I visited the Career Center, it was great to see how the students are being trained for jobs in the growing oil and gas industry.

In this quarter's newsletter we have added information from other state agencies, so you know about the initiatives that are available to help your business or community.

It has been a good year for Ohio and the Appalachian region. We look forward to working with you next year and hope you have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason".

## Local Development District Staff Updates

The Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) announced the addition of three new team members. **Jeannette Wierzbicki, P.E.**, has been promoted to Assistant Executive Director. **Misty Tolzda** has been hired as a Grants Specialist. **Grant Taylor** has joined the OMEGA team as a Transportation Planner/GIS Coordinator. For more details and contact information, visit [www.omegadistrict.org/](http://www.omegadistrict.org/)

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District announced the addition of **Karen Pawloski** as Transportation Manager to lead the regional pilot effort. For more details and contact information, visit [www.buckeyehills.org/](http://www.buckeyehills.org/)

## OHIO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Serving on a state Board or Commission is a great way to serve Ohio and your community.

To learn more about the state's various Boards and Commissions and how to apply, visit the Ohio Boards and Commissions [website](#).

# GOA Partners: Local Development Districts

## A Spotlight on Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission



In August the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) cut the ribbon, opening its new five headquarters in Waverly, creating a permanent home for the Local Development District.

For more than 45 years, the OVRDC has been working to promote community and economic development within 12 southern

Ohio counties (Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton).

Led by Executive Director John Hemmings, the OVRDC has more than 170 members who represent various levels of government, social service organizations, nonprofits and education organizations. The OVRDC team works with its members to identify funding opportunities for community and economic development projects that will improve the quality of life and create jobs in the community. OVRDC also provides support to members who don't have internal resources to draft grant applications and administer the money.

The OVRDC team grew to 10 this year with the addition of Development Director Kara Willis, Bookkeeper/Secretary Stephanie Gilbert and Research/Planning Specialist Vinny Xiao Wang. One way the team keeps in regular contact with its members is through two rounds of county caucus meetings. During the meetings, members are provided regional and state updates and an opportunity to discuss key issues in their communities.

OVRDC also maintains regular contact with its members and constituents through its e-newsletter, one-on-one meetings, project consultations and participation in key regional committees and partner-sponsored events.

"Our close-knit relationship with our members is the reason we are successful," said John Hemmings, executive director.

On November 19, OVRDC joined the Ironton-Lawrence Community Action Partnership for the groundbreaking of the new 9<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway Project in Ironton. With help from the OVRDC, the city of Ironton received a Community Development Block Grant and a grant from the Governor's Office of Appalachia to support site preparation and infrastructure improvements. The project includes the construction of a new 79-room hotel and a 5,500-square-foot

family restaurant. Upon completion, the hotel and restaurant will create 60 jobs.

"When this project was first submitted to us for consideration of funding this fiscal year, it was not ready to move forward. However, through local leadership in Lawrence County, the project's readiness to proceed for financing changed quickly. Regular communication with our office about these changes provided OVRDC the necessary information to support this project moving forward for financing through the Governor's Office of Appalachia this fiscal year," Hemmings said.



The OVRDC also helps small businesses and entrepreneurs in the region. The team can help customers identify funding sources and consulting services. Sometimes, the OVRDC will provide a business or entrepreneur assistance through its Revolving Loan Fund.

As the organization looks to 2014, a priority will be developing a public participation and regional transportation plan. The OVRDC was recently named a Regional Transportation Planning Organization by the Ohio Department of Transportation. It will be responsible for coordinating transportation planning with the regional community and economic development plans. A priority of the plan will be reducing congestion along major routes in the region and safety.



For communities or businesses looking for assistance, OVRDC is happy to help. Just bring an outline of your project, project funding, impact area and the number of jobs created if applicable to your meeting with the team.

For more information on the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission visit [www.ovrdc.org](http://www.ovrdc.org) or call 800-223-7491.

### **Counties served:**

Adams, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton

### **Local governments or nonprofit organizations with questions should contact:**

Kara Willis,  
Development Director  
[kwillis@ovrdc.org](mailto:kwillis@ovrdc.org)  
740-947-2853 or 800-223-7491

## APEG and Team NEO Receive *Make it in America Challenge* grants

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny S. Pritzker, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Christopher A. Masingill announced the 10 winners of the ***Make it in America Challenge***. Two of the winners are from Ohio and both serve the Appalachian region.

The programs funded through the *Make it in America Challenge* are designed to encourage U.S. companies to keep, expand or reshore their manufacturing operations and jobs in America.

Team NEO and the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth/Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District will receive \$1.7 million each.

The Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG)

and Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District will use the grant to build the supply chain, provide Manufacturing Extension Partnership assistance and target Foreign Direct Investment and re-shoring opportunities. The program will target the wood, metal fabrication and chemical and polymer industries.

The groups will also use the funds to help identify available sites and buildings in the region, a barrier in their current ability to effectively market the area.

Team NEO with Magnet, NorTech, NASA Glen, Wire-Net, University of Akron, Case Western Reserve, Stark

State and Lorain County Community College will use the grant to assess the supply chain, technology and workforce training needs in the area. The program is focused on business attraction, Foreign Direct Investment and re-shoring activities for the advanced manufacturing, energy, biomedical and automotive industries.

## Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth



## New Chief of TourismOhio Named and TourismOhio Advisory Board Complete

*Two Appalachian business owners join board*

Whether it's hiking, camping, horseback riding or visiting the largest Amish community in the country, tourism is a \$3.6 billion industry within Ohio's Appalachian region and it continues to grow.

Recently, the Ohio Development Services Agency announced that Mary Cusick will lead TourismOhio and work with the new TourismOhio Advisory Board to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for the state. Together they will work to increase the number of visitors to Ohio.

"Mary has a strong track record of success in both hospitality and marketing," said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. "Now, she can take her private sector experience and put it to work in the public sector for all tourism-related industries."

Cusick spent much of her career with Bob Evans Farms, Inc., where she was the chief marketing officer.



*Mary Cusick, Chief of Tourism Ohio*

Most recently, she was the Executive Director of the Initiative for Managing Services at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business.

She will work closely with the nine-member TourismOhio Advisory Board. Members of the Board are experts from the tourism industry, representing lodging, restaurants, transportation, retail and attractions.

Governor John Kasich appointed two Appalachian business owners to the nine-member board; Jodi Burroughs, owner of Hocking Hills Canopy Tours

and Wild Zipline Safari at the Wilds, and Ellen Grinsfelder, owner of the Inn and Spa at Cedar Falls.

Burroughs is a graduate of The Ohio State University's Max M. Fisher College of Business and has been providing exciting tree-top adventures since 2007. She also is a member of the Ohio Travel Association board. Grinsfelder is a graduate of Kent State University and lives in Logan. She moved to Hocking Hills in 1987 and runs the Inn with her husband.

"Ellen and Jodi have built thriving tourism businesses and are dedicated to helping Ohio's tourism industry succeed, creating jobs and revenue for the Appalachian region and the state," Goodman said.

With the TourismOhio team in place, the Board will hold its first meeting before the end of the year and begin to outline strategies to encourage people to come and experience all Ohio has to offer.

## Program Lets Unemployment Claimants 'Learn to Earn'

A training program launched by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in early 2013 is giving many unemployment compensation claimants the chance to continue receiving benefits while participating in approved, part-time training.

Called Ohio Learn to Earn, the program has been very successful. More than 60 employers across the state are offering training opportunities, including many in Appalachian counties.



More than 80 percent of participants have been hired into permanent jobs.

"More employers are joining every day," said Sara Hall Phillips, deputy director of the ODJFS Office of Unemployment Compensation. "We urge everyone receiving unemployment compensation to consider this opportunity."

Claimants can be trained up to 24 hours a week for up to six weeks at participating employers' work sites. The experience allows them to gain work experience, improve their resumes and network with potential employers while continuing to receive unemployment benefits. In some cases, they may even be eligible for stipends to cover gasoline and other travel costs.

Participation in Ohio Learn to Earn is voluntary. For more information, go to [www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com) or visit your local OhioMeansJobs Center.

## "Trees to Textbooks" Program Helps 16 Appalachian School Districts

Sixteen Appalachian Ohio school districts and their corresponding counties and townships will share \$1,737,857 from the sale of timber from Ohio state forests. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director James Zehringer and Smokey the Bear today presented the largest check of \$278,852 to Vinton County Local Schools during a school assembly.

"We are proud to assist the local schools and communities that benefit from not only the jobs and economic value generated by these funds, but from the many environmental and social benefits of a well-managed forest," said Zehringer. "Proper management of Ohio's state forests benefits Ohioans by creating diverse landscapes for wildlife, providing university research opportunities and promoting healthier lifestyles through recreational opportunities."



Through the ODNR Division of Forestry's "Trees to Textbooks" program, a percentage of the revenue generated from state forest management activity goes to the county, township and school district in which the activity took place.

The ODNR Division of Forestry is responsible for the care of nearly 200,000 acres of state forests. State forestry experts manage these woodlands for overall health and diversity, soil and water conservation, improved wildlife habitat and a variety of recreational opportunities. Selected trees or areas of woodland are harvested through a competitive bid process that includes requirements for sound management practices. All work is conducted by certified master loggers under strict monitoring.

The ODNR Division of Forestry works to promote the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio's public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio's woodlands, visit the ODNR Division of Forestry's website at [ohiodnr.gov/forestry](http://ohiodnr.gov/forestry).

# Money to Improve Safety in the Workplace:

## Kasich triples safety grant fund



Ohio businesses can get up to \$40,000 in a 3-to-1 match from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) to improve safety in the workplace with the Safety Intervention Grant Program. Not only do safety investments make sound business sense, but they also help ensure that more Ohio workers return home safely.

In May, Governor John Kasich and BWC Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer announced an initiative to help Ohio businesses. The Billion Back plan included \$1 billion in rebates that have now been issued to public and private employers across the state.

Plus, an increase in funding available through the grant program helps businesses improve safety in the

workplace with new equipment and innovations. The governor agreed to triple the amount of money from \$5 to \$15 million.

Here are the highlights of the Safety Intervention Grant Program:

- ◆ BWC matches every dollar employers contribute with three dollars;
- ◆ Employers are eligible to receive up to \$40,000 in a grant cycle. (See website for grant cycles, they change in reference to payroll size.)

Businesses, as well as cities, counties, townships, villages, schools and special districts qualify to apply for the Safety Intervention Grant Program if:

- ◆ They pay into the State Insurance

Fund;

- ◆ They are current on money owed to BWC;
- ◆ They demonstrate a need for a safety intervention.

BWC is committed to helping employers make their workplaces safer. Apply online and learn more about the Safety Intervention Grant Program at <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov/employer/programs/safety/EmpGrants.asp>.

If additional assistance is needed, you can contact a BWC regional business development manager who can help.

Locate the manager in your area at <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov/home/contactus/busdevelopmgrs.asp>.



## Ohio Veterans Bonus Application Deadline December 31st

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is a thank-you from the citizens of Ohio to all the members of the Armed Forces who served during the time of the Persian Gulf War, the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. **Veterans of the Persian Gulf era must apply by December 31, 2013, while veterans of the Iraq era have until December 31, 2014 to apply.**

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to military service members and veterans who entered the military from Ohio and are an Ohio resident at the time they apply. They must have served under honorable conditions for greater than 90 days on active duty, not for training, anywhere in the world during one of the following periods:



Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 — March 3, 1991 (**application deadline: December 31, 2013**)

Iraq: March 19, 2003 – December 31, 2011 (**application deadline: December 31, 2014**)

Afghanistan: October 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President

The Bonus pays \$100 per month for service in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq during the eligible periods, and/or \$50 per month for service anywhere else in the world during those times. The total individual award cannot exceed \$1,500.

The next-of-kin of eligible service members who are killed or die as a result of injuries or illness sustained in the Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan may also receive the Bonus. Next-of-kin may be compensated \$5,000, plus whatever the service member would have received. Next-of-kin of service members who die on active duty, but not as the result of injuries or illness sustained in the areas named above,

may be compensated whatever the eligible service member would have received.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is not taxed by either the federal government or Ohio. To find out more call: (877) 644-6838, select option 2 or visit: [www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov](http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov).

Information about the Ohio Veterans Bonus is also available on the Ohio Department of Veterans Services mobile app. Search the app store using the keyword, "Ohiovet."

If you're a veteran of any era of military service and have questions about the benefits you've earned, contact your county veterans service office.

Find yours by calling (877) OHIOVET (644-6838), option 1, or see the map at: [www.ohio.vet.gov](http://www.ohio.vet.gov)

# Decades in the Making – the Nelsonville Bypass is Complete

On a beautiful October day, hundreds gathered to witness the opening of the U.S. Route 33 Nelsonville Bypass. Motorists can now travel safer, faster and easier to southeast Ohio thanks to the \$160 million, 8.5 mile bypass.

U.S. 33 through Nelsonville – where it narrowed from a four lane highway to a two lane local road – was heavily congested with a history of serious injury crashes. In fact, from 2010 to 2012, injury crashes along U.S. 33 through Nelsonville rose 47 percent.



“The completion of this historical project improves safety for motorists and enhances the flow of commerce to and from southeast Ohio,” said ODOT District 10 Deputy Director Steve Williams.

As the largest transportation project ever constructed in southeast Ohio, the Nelsonville Bypass is the last piece in creating a limited-access corridor between Columbus, Ohio and Charleston, West Virginia.

Since the 1980s, more than \$330 million has been spent to upgrade the U.S. 33 Corridor. The new four lane highway travels through Athens and Hocking Counties and consists of two interchanges into historic Nelsonville, Ohio.

**“Today, we keep yet another promise to the people of Southeastern Ohio as we cut the ribbon on the final phase of the Nelsonville Bypass,”** said ODOT Director Jerry Wray

Nearly five miles of the bypass bisects Wayne National Forest (WNF), the only national forest in Ohio. This unique alignment prompted ODOT and WNF to implement several wildlife and environmental mitigation techniques never before seen on a transportation project in Ohio.

U.S. 33 is a major route extending from the southeast corner of Michigan to Richmond, Virginia. U.S. 33 carries more than 73,000 vehicles per day, with 1,700 being trucks in some stretches between Columbus, Ohio and Charleston, West Virginia, making it the eighth busiest truck route in Ohio.

Director Wray and Deputy Director Williams joined honored guests who spoke at the ribbon cutting Ceremony, including Ohio University President Roderick J. McDavis, Wayne National Forest Supervisor Anne Carey, local businessman and former TRAC member Kenner Bush and Master of Ceremonies Athens City Manager Andy Stone.

*Using U.S. Route 33  
will cut nearly 50 miles off your  
trip from Columbus to Charleston...  
saving time and gas.  
(compared to traveling I-70 and I-77)*

*Major transportation  
investments have made  
access to the area easier for both  
visitors and businesses.*



Don't forget to like us on Facebook

***If you have a story idea for the newsletter, please sent it to our editor***