



NTRPDC update



SERVING BRADFORD, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, TIOGA, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

IMG Midstream Roundtop Facility Operational



Chris Clary (right), Operations Supervisor of IMG Energy Services, explains the operation of one of the five natural gas-powered engines and generators that are producing electricity being used by electric consumers in this area.

In December, the Progress Authority coordinated a tour of an IMG Midstream electric generation facility in Susquehanna County for Susquehanna County economic development partners, including NTRPDC. The Roundtop facility, located in Auburn Township on SR 267 adjacent to the

Penelec substation, became operational in late 2015. It is one of several projects IMG Midstream has planned in the Northern Tier.

IMG Midstream develops, constructs, and operates distributed power generation facilities throughout the U.S. The company uses local low-

pressure natural gas to create and deliver electricity to local substations, with a goal of increasing power generation efficiency and reducing emissions. This will, in turn, help utilize local natural gas and provide more price stability. Local power generation eliminates the need for a natural gas compressor station as well as long gas pipelines and electric transmission lines. IMG Midstream chooses locations based on several factors, including proximity to natural gas production and existing infrastructure. IMG's building footprint is minimal, with one building at each site measuring 70 feet wide x 110 feet long x 34 feet high. At full capacity, the site can provide 19.9 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to provide power to more than 13,000 homes.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

February 19, 2016

kulick@northerntier.org

Economic Development Advisory Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

February 3, 2016

hauser@northerntier.org

Local Management Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
11:00 a.m.

January 26, 2016

fay@northerntier.org

RTAC

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

February 22, 2016

baker@northerntier.org

Workforce Development Board

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

February 10, 2016

warner@northerntier.org

Youth Council

NTRPDC Conference Room
9:30 a.m.

February 10, 2016

mccarty@northerntier.org

Apply Now for Ben Franklin SGICC's 2016 Shale Gas Innovation Contest!

Attention innovators! Applications may be submitted between now and February 1st for the Ben Franklin Shale Gas Innovation and Commercialization Center's 5th Annual Shale Gas Innovation Contest. A total of \$80,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to four winners. Entries may be product ideas or service concepts that are either in the development stage or recently launched by researchers, entrepreneurs, or small businesses in Pennsylvania or West Virginia. Apply online at <http://www.sgicc.org/2016-shale-gas-innovation-contest.html>.

BEP Grant Reaching Area Youth

Career fair scheduled for March 18, 2016.

For more information on the Business-Education Partnership or Bradford County Career Fair contact Jody McCarty, NTRPDC Workforce Program Manager, at 570-265-1516 or mccarty@northerntier.org.

NTRPDC is providing career counseling in 13 schools across the Northern Tier through a Business-Education Partnership (BEP) Grant funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Career counselors Jerika Cummiskey, Patricia Chappell, and Renae Chamberlain have met with more than 600 students this school year in the classroom or one-on-one. The grant supports student outreach through the end of the 2015–2016 school year.

The counselors work with younger students to identify interests and strengths and to complete career exploration

activities. They guide older students in identifying career goals and establishing pathways for them to reach their goals. Overall, students have been very receptive to career counseling and are interested in exploring career information provided to them. “Getting students thinking and excited about their future careers helps them make strategic choices regarding further education and contributes to a smooth transition into the workforce,” said Jody McCarty, Youth Program Manager at NTRPDC.

The next BEP career fair will be held in Bradford County at

Towanda Area High School on March 18, 2016. One of the goals of the BEP is to educate and connect students to employers, businesses, and career opportunities available in the Northern Tier region. Career fairs provide first-hand knowledge to students about various local occupations. Employers and businesses that would like to participate in the BEP by attending the career fair, offering job shadow opportunities, or giving presentations in schools or tours of worksites are encouraged to contact NTRPDC.

Governor Releases Workforce Development Plan

Four-year strategic vision for a skilled workforce will shape Northern Tier efforts.

For more information contact Frank Thompson at 570-265-1515 or thompson@northerntier.org.

On December 28, 2015, as required by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Governor Tom Wolf released a draft of the Commonwealth’s four-year strategic vision for preparing a skilled workforce and for meeting the workforce demands of employers. The Pennsylvania Workforce Development Plan will establish the framework the Northern Tier Workforce Development Board must use to craft its workforce development plan for our five counties. The state plan can be found online at

http://www.dli.pa.gov/Businesses/Workforce-Development/Pages/WIOA-Combined-State-Plan-Posted.aspx#.Vo_3PkrLcs and is open for public comment through February 1.

NTRPDC will provide comments on the state plan and welcomes the opportunity for those in our region to bring their voice to the discussion. If you wish to provide feedback on the state plan through us, please e-mail any comments to Frank Thompson, NTRPDC Deputy Director for Workforce Development, at thompson@northerntier.org

by January 28. NTRPDC will collate feedback and submit it to the PA Department of Labor and Industry by the February 1 deadline. We will share comments with interested parties as well. There also is a link on the Department of Labor and Industry’s website to comment directly there.

As this process unfolds for the state plan, the Northern Tier Workforce Plan is now required to be made available for public review in April with a May 2 deadline to submit comments. More details on our specific steps to be taken will be announced soon.

Service Providers Collaborate

Outreach meetings conducted in each Northern Tier county in November.

NTRPDC conducted its biannual county outreach meetings in November 2015. The meetings attracted more than 40 economic and workforce development service providers, including chambers of commerce, industrial development authorities, economic development professionals, business development centers,

and other civic and heritage groups. Participants discussed their work and ideas for collaborating to better serve the region.

“These meetings are a critical time for focused communication and networking among the various services providers in each county,” said Kevin Abrams, NTRPDC Executive

Director. “Attendees discuss what they are currently working on, and more importantly, ways to increase collaboration and work together to promote economic growth in our communities and the development of the local workforce to meet business needs.”

“Attendees discuss ways to work together to promote economic growth...”

Loan Closings

Elkland and Lanesboro businesses expand operations.

In November 2015, NTRPDC closed a \$100,000 loan to **MSPI Enterprises, LLC, in Elkland**. The NTRPDC loan was combined with a \$150,000 loan from Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) to help finance a 12,000-square-foot manufacturing building in Elkland, which opened in July 2015. The new building allowed MSPI Enterprises to consolidate its operations at one location. The company has five full-time employees and expects to add two employees during the next three years. MSPI Enterprises is a wholesaler of mufflers and exhausts systems, exhaust pipes for heavy duty trucks and buses, and customized steel tube bending for use in fabricating stair railings.

In October 2015, NTRPDC closed a \$10,000 loan to **Mazy Hair Design (Susquehanna County)** to assist with renovations to the hair salon. Amanda Williams, owner and operator, has been in business since 2012 and currently operates the business out of her home. The loan will enable her to relocate the salon to a property she owns in Lanesboro. The move will double her working space and expand customer parking. Williams plans to hire one part-time employee in the future as her client base expands.



1st row: Robert J. Blair, TCDC; Melissa Freeman, MSPI; Jeremy Freeman, MSPI
2nd row: Robert Simmons, MSPI; Lisa Simmons, MSPI
3rd row: Kim Barnes, NTRPDC; Stacey Urban, NTRPDC
4th row: Kim Miller, Northwest Savings Bank; Robert Cox, Cox, Stokes, and Lantz, P.C.

Thank You to Outgoing Committee Members

Sullivan County Commissioners honored.



NTRPDC Executive Director Kevin Abrams presents a photo to outgoing Sullivan County Commissioner Darla Bortz, in appreciation for her service.

NTRPDC extends its heartfelt thanks to the outgoing members of the NTRPDC committees. NTRPDC presented Sullivan County Commissioners Darla Bortz and Robert Getz with a framed photo from Sullivan County as a thank

you for their hard work and dedicated service to the Northern Tier region. "These members have shown a commitment not only to their occupation, but also to their community, the county, and the region. We can't thank

them enough for giving so much of their time and energy toward the sustainable development of the Northern Tier region," said Kevin Abrams, NTRPDC Executive Director.

Is Your Business Exporting?

Learn more about the Global Access Program.

The Pennsylvania Global Access Program (GAP) is a grant designed to enhance the capability of small to mid-sized companies to increase export sales. GAP offers up to \$3,500 per year in grant assistance to qualifying Pennsylvania companies to reimburse 100% of eligible expenses associated with specific export promo-

tion activities. Qualifying activities include overseas trade mission participation, overseas trade show participation, foreign market sales trips, and subscriptions to U.S. Department of Commerce services. Contact NTRPDC Export Program Manager Cynthia Traore (traore@northerntier.org) to learn more.

This program is funded in part through the U.S. Small Business Administration State Trade and Export Promotion program and administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) Office of International Business Development (OIBD).



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LTAP Classes for Municipal Officials Scheduled

PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Planning (LTAP) classes have been scheduled for February and March 2016 to offer training for municipal officials in efficient roadway maintenance procedures. The course list is provided below. To register, contact Ethan Sexton at 570-265-1511 or sexton@northerntier.org.

Course	Location	Date	Time
Winter Maintenance	Athens Township Bldg. Sayre	Wednesday, February 10, 2016	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Polymer Modified Emulsion Asphalt Paving System (Micro-surfacing) and Ultra-thin Friction Course	Athens Township Bldg. Sayre	Thursday, March 10, 2016	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.