



NTRPDC update



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

IMG Midstream Presents at Full Commission Meeting



Matt Tripoli, IMG Midstream's Manager of Business Development, delivered the keynote address.

NTRPDC's Full Commission Meeting was held on October 31, 2014, at the Deane Center in Wellsboro, attracting more than 45 attendees from across the region. Among the attendees were State Representative Matt Baker, Steve Yokimishyn from the Governor's Action Team (GAT), Jason Krise on behalf of State Representative Tina Pickett, Arnie Kriner on behalf of State Senator Joe Scarnati, and county commissioners from across the five-county region.

IMG Midstream's Manager of Business Development, Matt Tripoli, PE, delivered the keynote address, discussing the

company's potential natural gas utilization projects throughout the Northern Tier. IMG has nine proposed Northern Tier projects: three in Bradford County and two each in Tioga, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties (see locations in sidebar).

Tripoli detailed the IMG business model, in which they use local, low pressure natural gas to create and deliver electricity to local substations with a goal of increasing efficiency and reducing emissions in electricity generation. This approach eliminates the need for a compressor station as well as the need for long gas pipelines and electricity transmission lines. IMG Midstream chooses substation locations based on multiple 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, each site could provide 19.9 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to provide power to more than 13,000 homes.

In addition to Tripoli's presentation, Robert J. Blair, President and CEO of Tioga County Development Corporation, addressed attendees regarding the success story of the Deane Center, the location of the Full Commission Meeting. The Deane Center is a story of partnership and hard work to renovate the building, which now houses two theatres, three other performance rooms, and multiple meeting rooms for events. NTRPDC was one of many partners that assisted in development of the Deane Center.



Upcoming Meetings

RTAC

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

December 8, 2014

baker@northerntier.org

Proposed IMG Electrical Substation Locations

Bradford County

- Milan – Smithfield Township along SR 4014
- Beaver Dam – Canton Township off Brague Road adjacent to SWEPI Groff pad site
- Alpaca – Canton Township off SR 414 adjacent to large pipe yard

Susquehanna County

- Roundtop – Auburn Township, SR 267 adjacent to substation
- Hop Bottom – Lenox Township

Tioga County

- Basswood – Morris Township, adjacent to landfill
- SE Tioga – New site under development

Wyoming County

- Oxbow – Nicholson Township, adjacent to substation
- Florey Knob – Meshoppen area, industrial area

For more information on IMG Midstream's work, contact Matt Tripoli, PE, IMG Midstream Manager of Business Development, at matt.tripoli@imgmidstream.com.



DCED Secretary Alan Walker toured Diaz Manufacturing (above) and Soil Services, Inc. (below), during an October trip to the Northern Tier.



DCED Secretary Visits the Northern Tier

Tour included businesses in Susquehanna and Sullivan counties

On October 23, 2014, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary C. Alan Walker visited Susquehanna and Sullivan counties. It was Walker's second visit to the Northern Tier region and first visit to Susquehanna and Sullivan counties since taking office in April 2011.

DCED coordinated the visit with the assistance of the Scranton Small Business De-

velopment Center (SBDC) and NTRPDC. Secretary Walker visited Diaz Manufacturing, a locally owned wood manufacturer in Montrose, to learn more about their work in the region, their success and growth as a company, and how they've impacted the Northern Tier. Walker also visited Soil Services, Inc., in Forks-ville. Soil Services is also locally owned and provides soil analysis consultation services.

Each business owner had previously received the Governor's Entrepreneur Impact Award; Diaz Manufacturing in 2013 and Soil Services in 2014. The award recognizes an individual who has exhibited strong leadership of his/her company to grow in the marketplace through increased creativity, innovation, business management, and leadership.

PA CareerLink® Wellsboro Office Moves

Same plaza, smaller office space



An October 31 ribbon-cutting celebrated the opening of the new PA CareerLink® office space. Shown above in a classroom are, left to right: Frank Thompson, NTRPDC Deputy Director; Elaine Stalfa, Department of Labor and Industry; Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner; Erick Coolidge, Tioga County Commissioner; Kim Johns, Rep. Matt Baker's office; Kevin Abrams, NTRPDC Executive Director; Melissa Fleming, NTRPDC CareerLink Site Administrator; Roger Bunn, Tioga County Commissioner; Linda West, Keystone Realty.

PA CareerLink® in Wellsboro held a ribbon-cutting on October 31, 2014, to commemorate the opening of its new offices—a smaller space in the same building on Plaza Lane.

"We no longer require the full square footage of our orig-

inal location," explained Site Administrator Melissa Fleming. "We had an opportunity to move operations into a reduced space within the same building, ultimately lowering our costs without disrupting service to our customers." PA

CareerLink® began serving customers in the new space on October 1.

PA CareerLink® provides services to connect a skilled workforce with local employers. Staff can assist job seekers with resume writing, job searches, interview techniques, and workshops. Employers are welcome to conduct interviews and host job fairs at the site. PA CareerLink® staff also assists employers with recruiting, screening, and hiring applicants.

PA CareerLink® is a one-stop facility with staff from several state and local agencies. For more information on the PA CareerLink® – Tioga County, call 570-724-1939 or find their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/PACL.Tioga>.

Athens Township Awarded Funds

DCNR funds encourage multi-use site

In October, Athens Township was awarded grant funds by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) to assist in making improvements to Round Top Park in Athens Township, creating a site with multiple uses. DCNR's award of \$100,000 comprises a portion of funding for the \$814,000 project.

Athens Township originally applied for \$400,000 in DCNR

funds. DCNR was unable to award the entire amount and asked Athens Township to break the project into phases. This allowed a smaller DCNR grant plus a 50 percent match from the township to fund Phase 1.

Phase 1 includes construction of an entrance road, parking area, pavilions, walkways, a fishing pier, and a boardwalk, all accessible to people with disabilities. The overall project is planned to include playground equipment, land-

scaping, enlarging the lower-level picnic area by the pond, and improving the overall site and amenities. The entire project is estimated to take six years to complete, and the Athens Township Parks and Recreation Commission will invite volunteers to help with certain construction tasks.

NTRPDC assisted the township with the grant application and provided planning and project development assistance.

No-Cost Leadership Seminars Planned for the Northern Tier

The Northeast Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center (NEPIRC) has scheduled no-cost Leadership Development Courses in five locations throughout their 11-county region, which includes the Northern Tier. The course will be offered locally on December 16, 2014, at NTRPDC in Towanda from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The four-hour seminar teaches individuals how to provide leadership in the midst of adversity and change. Using self-assessment tools and experiential learning, participants examine their strengths and weaknesses while exploring best practices of exceptional leaders.

The event is free, but registration is required. Please visit <http://www.nepirc.com/training-events/classes-by-date/> or call Colleen Reardon at 570-704-0018 to register.

GAP Funding Guidelines Revised

Application period open for area businesses

The Pennsylvania Global Access Program (GAP), coordinated for the Northern Tier region through NTRPDC, assists small to mid-sized business in promoting their export capabilities and increasing sales. GAP funding guidelines have been revised by the Office of International Business Development and applications are now being accepted. Under the

new guidelines, the maximum award is \$3,500 per company, per year, to qualifying small to mid-sized businesses that already export their products or are interested in doing so. If awarded, funds can be used to defray the cost of participation in overseas trade missions and trade shows, foreign market sales trips, and subscriptions to U.S. Department of

Commerce services.

There is a limited amount of funding allocated toward the GAP and applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Cynthia Traore, NTRPDC Export Program Manager, at 570-265-9103 or traore@northerntier.org for additional details and application forms.

Free Online Broadband and Technology Training

Registration for free online courses is available to anyone through the Pennsylvania Online Broadband & Technology Training (OBTT) Program. Courses are available until January 31, 2015. Topics include online marketing, website development, cloud computing, QuickBooks, Microsoft applications, and more!

Visit www.paobtt.com or contact Jeff Field, NTRPDC Information Technology Program Manager, at 570-265-1541 or field@northerntier.org.

Transportation Plan Available for Review

Public meeting scheduled for December 8



NTRPDC's Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) invites public comment on the draft Northern Tier Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan is a component of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan that considers our priorities for the regional transportation system from 2015 through 2040.

The 45-day public review and comment period began November 10, 2014, and continues through December 24,

2014. Copies of the draft plan are available for review at the county commissioners' offices in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties, as well as at the NTRPDC office at 312 Main Street, Towanda, PA, and online at www.northerntier.org.

A public meeting to discuss the draft long-range transportation plan will be held Monday, December 8, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at Towanda Country Club, US Route 6,

Wysox, PA. For more information please contact Brian Baker, NTRPDC Regional Planning Program Manager, at baker@northerntier.org or 570-265-9103.

The public meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone wishing to attend who has disability-related needs requiring special accommodation is asked to contact Brian Baker 10 days prior to the meeting so arrangements may be made.

New Option for Major Fuel Consumers

Large plants beyond the pipeline can receive trucked CNG

Northern Tier companies located beyond the reach of physical pipelines may now have the opportunity to use natural gas as an energy source. A company from Vermont, NG Advantage, LLC, is trucking compressed natural gas (CNG) directly to very large institutions and industrial plants in the Northeast that are not located on a gas pipeline. Plants that have been burning fuel oil, propane, or coal can save an average of 20 to 40 percent on their energy bill, while reducing their CO₂ emissions by as much as 26 percent.

NG Advantage is reaching out to Pennsylvania counties to identify very large facilities that could potentially benefit from switching to natural gas. Currently, NG Advantage is only serving customers who use more than \$750,000 per year in fuel oil or propane (or \$500,000 in a six-month period), such as asphalt plants, large hospitals, food processing plants, prisons, etc. The company is exploring the possibility of serving a group of smaller facilities that together consumes that much fuel.

NTRPDC is interested in compiling a list of potential industries in our region that may benefit from this opportunity. "We continue to seek ways to add value and utilize our natural gas resource before it leaves our region, and this may be one more way to make that happen," stated Kim Barnes, NTRPDC Deputy Director. Anyone interested in exploring this option is encouraged to contact her at 570-265-1542. Please visit www.ngadvantage.com for more information on NG Advantage, LLC.



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