



October 2011

NTRPDC update



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

NTRPDC Provides Flood Recovery Assistance



The flooding caused by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee destroyed or severely damaged countless homes and businesses in the Northern Tier. As communities worked together to respond, NTRPDC staff spent more than 80 hours helping at emergency management and disaster recovery centers by answering calls, contacting vic-

tims, and providing information. Staff also donated items to help restore the local food pantry and provide cleaning supplies.

In order to help businesses with their recovery efforts, NTRPDC developed a Disaster Recovery Loan Fund. The funds were provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enter-

prise Grant. Micro-loans up to \$25,000 with 0% interest and no match requirement were made available. To date, 16 loans have been approved throughout the region.

For more information, please contact Paulette Potter, Loan Program Manager, at potter@northerntier.org or 570-265-1510.

Upcoming Meetings

Local Loan Review Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
9 a.m.

November 11

December 9

Kulick@northerntier.org

RTAC

NTRPDC Conference Room
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

November 14

December 12

baker@northerntier.org

Workforce Investment Board

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.

December 21

warner@northerntier.org

Upcoming County Outreach Meetings

9 a.m.

November 4—Susquehanna County

December 2—Tioga County

December 16—Wyoming County

Kulick@northerntier.org



33 counties are eligible for disaster relief



DEP Storm Relief Grants Available

Small businesses may be eligible for up to \$9,500.

Small businesses that were impacted by the recent flooding and are located in one of the 33 counties declared eligible for disaster relief by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may be eligible to receive up to \$9,500 in grant assistance through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Storm Relief Advantage Grant Program.

This program provides grant funding for small businesses to make energy efficiency and pollution prevention improvements such as installing high-efficiency lighting systems, building insulation, air sealing, recycling and reuse systems, and implementing new water conservation technologies.

Applications can be obtained by visiting DEP's website at

www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: SBAdvantage. Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2011, or until funds are exhausted.

Micro-Grants No Longer Available

State funding cuts force elimination of programs.

Unfortunately, NTRPDC is not currently able to offer Small Business Training Grants, Small Business Internet Grants, or Municipal Hardware/ Software Grants. Re-

cent cuts in state funding have made it impossible to continue these popular grant programs.

Although fiscal austerity will likely be the norm for the

foreseeable future, strengthening local governments and businesses is our mission and we continue to fulfill that mission through all feasible avenues.

Wyoming County Job Fair

NTRPDC supports annual event held in Tunkhannock.

NTRPDC co-sponsored the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce's annual job fair held on September 14th at the Shadowbrook Inn and Resort in Tunkhannock.

Jill Koski (left) and Sherry Felten spoke with students and job seekers about future prospects in the workforce and entrepreneurial opportunities.



New Permit Application Software on the Way

ePermitting will streamline HOP application process.

In an effort to streamline the Highway Occupancy Permitting (HOP) process, PennDOT will move to an electronic submission system for HOP applications. On October 31, 2011, PennDOT will begin accepting electronic submissions for utility, driveway, and local road applications via the online Electronic Permitting System (ePermitting).

Access to and occupancy by utilities, driveways, local roads, and other structures within PennDOT highway right-of-way are regulated to ensure security, economy of maintenance, preservation of proper drainage, and safe and convenient passage of traffic.

Utility companies, developers, municipalities and other entities requesting to occupy or connect to a state-maintained roadway must apply for a HOP.

Currently, in order to obtain a permit, an applicant must submit a hard copy of the permit application and associated material (e.g., reports, construction plans, etc.) to the applicable PennDOT Engineering District or PennDOT County Maintenance Office.

The new ePermitting system will allow applicants to:

- Submit their application and associated material via the ePermitting website.
- Follow the progress of their application through the PennDOT review process.
- Review PennDOT comments and submit revisions electronically.
- Retrieve permits through the ePermitting system.
- Reduce the total amount of time to receive a permit.

For more information please visit <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/>



Applicants will be able to submit information electronically and log in to monitor the status of their application. The system is expected to accelerate the HOP permitting process.

Marcellus Shale Transportation Study Completed

Report considers the impact of gas industry traffic on road and rail infrastructure.

A freight transportation study completed for NTRPDC by the planning and engineering firm Gannett Fleming brings hard facts and numbers to what residents of the region already know—truck traffic related to the gas industry has dramatically increased and continues to grow.

Before 2007, transportation issues surrounding Marcellus Shale were non-

existent. All transportation planning up to that point was based on accommodating agricultural, timber, and consumer products. Long-range plans could not foresee the impact of the gas industry on road and rail infrastructure. However, in the past four years, traffic on the region's major routes has doubled and will continue to increase.

The study projects the gas

industry's impact on the region's transportation infrastructure over the next 10 to 30 years. It makes recommendations for policy and procedures to help manage the impact on transportation infrastructure. More information and the study report are available at www.northerntier.org.



Photo by Ken Meyer

DRAFT HPO List for Marcellus Shale Industries

High Priority Occupations

- | | |
|---|---|
| Cost Estimators | Operating Engineers |
| Billing & Posting Clerks & Machine Operators | Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting & Audit Clerks | Production, Planning & Expediting Clerks |
| Construction Laborers | Pump Operator |
| Customer Service Representatives | Rotary Drill Operators, Oil & Gas |
| Derrick Operators, Oil & Gas | Roustabouts, Oil & Gas |
| Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians | Sales Representatives, Scientific & Technical Secretaries |
| Gas Compressor & Gas Pumping Station Operators | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas & Mining |
| Geological & Petroleum Technicians | Supervisors—Construction Trades & Extraction Workers |
| Geoscientists | Supervisors—Mechanics, Installers & Repairers |
| Industrial Engineers | Supervisors—Production & Operating Workers |
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | Supervisors—Transportation & Vehicle Operators |
| Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers & Weighers | Telecommunications Line Installers & Repairers |
| Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers | Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor Trailer |
| Logging Equipment Operators | Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers |
| Maintenance & Repair Workers | Welding, Soldering, & Brazing Machine Operators |
| Mining & Geological Engineers | Wellhead Pumps |
| Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics | |
| Office Clerks | |

Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.'s data are compiled from nearly 90 different federal, state, and private sources, including the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau, and Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 Compatibility data are derived using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, O'NET, and Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.'s compatibility matrix.

Career options in the gas industry.

To compete in today's global economy, businesses need a skilled workforce, and our citizens need increasingly higher levels of education and knowledge. Workforce education and training programs need to be aligned with the actual skills required of jobs in our economy.

High Priority Occupations, or HPOs, are job categories, within selected industry clusters, that are in demand by employers, have higher skill needs and are likely to provide family-sustaining wages. Statewide and local HPOs are identified annually by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry using federal and state labor market data as well as projections based on U.S. Department of Labor models.

Training program funding under the Workforce Investment Act is based on local HPO lists. HPO lists also impact the Economic Development Stipend funding for the state's 14 community colleges as well as all programs of studies offered by the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (Pennsylvania Department of Education).

The development of a **Marcellus Shale HPO list** will help inform job seekers of the employment opportunities available to them in this emerging sector. In order for this growth to continue, job seekers must be aware of the variety of career options available to them and have the appropriate skills needed for the jobs created by these industries.



312 Main Street
 Towanda, PA 18848



Phone: 570-265-9103
 Fax: 570-265-7585
 Toll-Free: 888-868-8800
 E-mail: info@northerntier.org

Visit our Web Site!

www.NorthernTier.org