

Keystone Utilities Partnership



*A Statewide Joint Partnership to Meet the Needs of Pennsylvania's Utilities Workforce
Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry*

September 17, 2009

Keystone Utilities Partnership Summer 2009 Update

Program Year 2008-09 summary

The Keystone Utilities Partnership (KUP) finalized the \$425,000 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry grant for program year 2008-09 ending June 30, 2009.

- 948 PA utility industry employees attended 28 classes subsidized by the grant
- The average cost per trainee was below \$450. This includes expenses for training delivery, fiscal management, program support, and curriculum development.

KUP Outreach

KUP welcomed Allegheny Power and UWUA Local 102, PECO/Exelon and IBEW Local 614, and IBEW local 777. IBEW Local 777 represents workers at First Energy/Met-Ed, Olympus Power, Exelon Generation, RRI, Energy, and Adams Electric Co-op. Local 777 is pursuing meeting with the companies for a KUP presentation. KUP looks forward to working them.

The KUP also provided a presentation for the PA Public Utility Commissioners. In response, PUC Chairman Cawley provided a reference for additional funding and offered support for KUP. KUP also gave a presentation for T.W. Phillips and UWUA.

KUP Proposal Update

On behalf of the KUP, Keystone Development Partnership (KDP) submitted two proposals to the PA Department of Labor & Industry:

- 1) **Career Opportunity Grant:** The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board received an award letter for a \$250,000 grant for KUP On-the-Job Training programs. This grant is for individuals who are either: (a) Existing employees who could move into a higher position if provided the proper training or; (b) New employees who lack the required skills for particular jobs. A predetermined training period can range from 6 to 26 weeks based on the skill level of the participant(s) and the targeted occupation. This grant provides a 50% wage reimbursement for trainees.
- 2) **KUP renewal:** This award is pending. The PA Department of Labor & Industry is working to identify alternative funding to support Industry Partnerships that have shown results and sustainability. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

KDP submitted a proposal for the Energy Training Partnership to the US Department of Labor for up to \$5 million over a 24-month period. This funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) or Economic Stimulus Package. **KDP Green** will be statewide and will collaborate with the Keystone Transit Career Ladder Partnership and the Keystone Utilities Partnership. The Transit Partnership serves 23 of PA's public transit agencies plus 6 labor organizations including the Amalgamated Transit Union and the Transport Workers Union.

The Energy Training Partnership grant targets green jobs and will subsidize incumbent training and pre - employment programs that lead to job placement. The intent is to create a pipeline

(pre-employment training for new hires) to reduce costs for recruitment and to elevate the skill levels of the applicants.

The PUC provided a letter documenting the following: the commissioners' commitment to facilitate participation in **KDP Green** training programs, advise KDP of training needs for green jobs in the electric energy fields, particularly jobs related to Act 129 requirements, help KDP create standardized job training qualification for green jobs, review content for KDP training programs and provide guidance regarding training requirements to comply with PA's statutory requirements, advise KDP regarding PA statutory and green job regulatory requirements, and serve as a technical advisor to **KDP Green**.

KUP Survey Executive Summary:

The KUP survey respondents represented a broad range of companies and labor representatives familiar with workforce development in the gas, electric, and water sectors. Please contact Brian Price if you would like a copy of the Survey Executive Summary.

KUP Training Activities

Duquesne Light and IBEW Local 29: System Operators Clearance Procedure, Standard First Aid, CPR, & AED, Electrical Equipment Technician Refresher, Mobile Electrical Training Level 1, Person In Charge, and Lead Awareness, plus curriculum development for substations and a workforce survey for Customer Care. **Next Steps:** Substation training. **Total Trained: 272**

First Energy Nuclear Operations Company and IBEW Local 29: LMTC set a priority for an intensive 200-hour Machine-training course. **Next Steps:** Fiber Optics and Copper plus WTA Voltage Regulator. **Total Trained: 3**

RRI Energy and IBEW Local 29: 21 complete Beck Drive training from two different companies in three different locations. Rigging training for 10 workers. **Next Steps:** Electrical Breaker Training and arch flash training. **Total Trained: 31**

PPL and IBEW Local 1600: The LMTC is interested in, a Facilities Maintenance career ladder, and consortia based Machinist training program for incumbent workers. The training completed: painting, conduit bending, masonry, HVAC, Advanced HVAC, and renovation. **Next steps:** consortia-based Substation training **Total trained: 76**

Sunbury Power Generation and IBEW Local 1600: The LMTC completed Plant Equipment Operator apprenticeship and National Safety Council training. The Partners also participated in consortia-based Beck Drive training, sponsored by RRI Energy. **Next Steps:** Emissions Monitoring System, crane operations, Beck Drive, excavation training. **Total Trained: 51**

Pennsylvania American Water and UWUA Local 537: The LMTC drafted a troubleshooting guidebook and logic trees detailing general courses for emergency action. They completed skill gap analysis for Utility, Maintenance, and Operations positions. Training: Basic Water Business, Dam Safety, Class E Water Distribution Certification, Line Location, Backhoe, FACTS update, and Electrical Training. **Total Trained: 377**

McKeesport and UWUA Local 433: participated in a statewide backhoe training class sponsored by PA American Water. **Total Trained: 2**

UGI and IBEW Local 1456: The LMTC completed a statewide road construction initiative that included One-day Backhoe Training, First Responder/Leak Investigation, Pipe and Cable Locating Training, Welding, and NDT Technology Seminar. **Total Trained: 134**

Equitable Gas and United Steel Workers 12500: sent two employees to participate in a statewide backhoe training class sponsored by PAW. **Total Trained: 2**