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Local #81  
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Testimony submitted to the House Labor Relations Committee

Public Hearing on Qualified Workforce & Workplace Safety issues relating to  
Marcellus Shale drilling operations in Pennsylvania

Thursday, September 16, 2010

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Summary of oral Testimony given:

**QUALIFIED WORKFORCE**

- IBEW prides itself on having a trained workforce who can go onto these Marcellus Shale jobsites and perform specific tasks presented to them.
- Our five year apprenticeship program gets our people ready to work at a very young age.
- We combine classroom training of 180 to 225 hours per year, with approximately 2000 hours of on the job training, including, but not limited to:
  - conduit bending
  - PLC's Motor Control
  - Instrumentation
  - Refrigeration
  - Telecommunications

## SAFETY

- We take safety very seriously; all first year apprentices take OSHA 30, and NFPA 70E Safety Related Work Practices.
- We also offer these safety courses to all journeyman wireman, as well as our signatory contractors.
- In addition to the above, some other safety courses offered are:
  - confined space training
  - hazardous locations
  - grounding and bonding
  - code NEC update
- It must be noted that General Contractors in our area are now requiring everyone coming on their jobsites to have OSHA Training and NFPA 70E, or else you can't get on the worksite.
- We feel that what we offer in the way of job and safety training makes our employees and organizations a cut above the rest, and should be able to be very competitive for job biddings on Shale sites. Our employees have the knowledge to effectively and safely run a shale well rig site, and deserve the higher consideration from Shale developers and companies when doing business in the Commonwealth.