

MB

MILWAUKEE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL

TC

LYLE A. BALISTRERI
President

5941 WEST BLUEMOUND ROAD
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53213
PHONE (414) 475-5580
FAX (414) 475-5590



From: Lyle Balistreri
June 10, 2004

Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council and Bechtel Construction Company Sign Project Labor Agreement for Oak Creek Expansion

Milwaukee – Representatives from the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council and Bechtel Construction Company signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) this morning to cover the expansion at the site of the Oak Creek Power Plant.

The PLA is an agreement by and between Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO and the Bechtel Construction Company. The purpose of the PLA is to promote efficient construction without delays, provide for settlement of labor disputes without strikes or work stoppages, establish uniform and standard working conditions and establish and maintain harmonious relations among the parties to the agreement. Bechtel Construction Company has been contracted by We Energies to perform the construction work at Oak Creek.

“This is another important milestone forward towards the beginning of construction at Oak Creek,” said Lyle Balistreri, President of the Milwaukee County Building and Construction Trades Council. “We are committed to helping build the infrastructure to deliver cleaner, low cost energy to meet the demands of a growing Southeast Wisconsin economy.” Demand for electricity in Wisconsin is growing by about three percent per year. By 2010, forecasts demonstrate that electricity demand in Wisconsin will outstrip capacity by approximately 4,000 Mw.

According to a recent report, the expansion at Oak Creek will generate more than 1,200 construction jobs at peak construction and nearly \$860 million in wages and benefits for Southeast Wisconsin and the entire state of Wisconsin. When completed, the plant expansion will require an additional 200 permanent, skilled positions.

“This project will have a direct economic impact on the construction trade and will spark hundreds of millions of dollars in additional economic development for our state and the local economy,” said Balistreri. “Organized Labor is proud to play an important part in the largest construction project in the history of Wisconsin.”

We Energies and the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council have already signed a PLA that covers the power plant construction activities at both the Oak Creek and Port Washington construction sites. The construction at Oak Creek and Port Washington are part of We Energies' *Power the Future* initiative that is investing in additional power generation, reducing emissions from existing power plants, expanding renewable energy sources and upgrading the electric delivery infrastructure.

The construction of the first natural gas unit at Port Washington is over 30% complete with over 450 daily construction workers on-site.

Following necessary environmental approvals and legal challenges to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Final Order, plans to begin the expansion at Oak Creek are expected to begin in the first half of 2005. The Commission issued its decision in November 2003 granting the two unit expansion for in-service dates of 2009 and 2011.

The Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council represents all working men and women in the building and construction trades in the Greater Milwaukee area to achieve the goals of justice on the job, the highest possible wages and fringe benefits and quality work for the customer. For more information, click on <http://www.milwbuildingtrades.org/> or call Lyle A. Balistreri at (414) 475-5580

LAB/rt
Opeiu #9
AFL-CIO