



# NECA

## WESTERN PA

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

## POLITICAL UPDATE

August 2017

**This Month:**

- [Chapter Leaders Meet With Gubernatorial Candidate Scott Wagner](#)
- [Mayor Peduto Announces Construction Industry Task Force](#)
- [WPA NECA Joins Nuclear Energy Task Force](#)

**Call Your Reps and Senators on Solar Tech!**

*National NECA is calling all contractors to contact Congress to express support for the solar energy market, to ensure it continues to expand and become more cost-effective nationwide.*

[Click here](#) to learn more and contact your representatives!

**Chapter Leaders Meet With  
Gubernatorial Candidate Scott Wagner**

State Senator Scott Wagner (R-York), a Republican candidate for the 2018

gubernatorial race, attended Western PA NECA's July Board of Directors meeting, where he talked with the Board and members of the chapter's newly formed Legislative Committee about issues affecting NECA contractors in PA.

The introductory meeting was helpful to both sides of the table. Senator Wagner learned about NECA as an association and the types of work that Western PA member contractors do regularly. The group expressed to Sen. Wagner the importance of maintaining and enforcing the state prevailing wage and Separations Act. Contractors heard from the Senator about his intent to focus on Workers Compensation reform and fixing the state budget.

Even though the gubernatorial election is still more than a year away, establishing these conversations and creating dialogue between NECA members, candidates, and elected officials is vital to make sure the government understands how future policy changes would affect electrical contractors and the construction industry overall.

*All Western PA members are welcome to be a part of the WPA NECA Legislative Committee! If you're interested in getting involved, email Joelle at [insalerno@wpaneca.com](mailto:insalerno@wpaneca.com).*

## **Mayor Peduto Announces Construction Industry Task Force**



**WPANECA GovtAffairs**

@WPANECAGovAffrs



Great to join Mayor [@billpeduto](#) Councilman [@danielgilman](#) & [#PGH](#) construction community on announcement of task force for construction policy



10:12 AM - 26 Jul 2017

Representatives of WPA NECA and IBEW Local 5 joined the Pittsburgh construction community as Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, and City Councilmen Dan Gilman, R. Daniel Lavelle, and Corey O'Connor

announced the creation of a new task force to examine construction policies in the city of Pittsburgh.

The city is anticipating a significant boon in development in the region over the coming decade. The Mayor's executive order tasks the new body with recommending improvements to the city's licensing, procurement, economic development, and workforce development policies to facilitate a more efficient construction environment.

Councilman Dan Gilman invoked the popular adage, "a rising tide lifts all boats" to convey that the goal of the new task force will be to ensure that the city's residents, workers, and businesses can all benefit from the new development.

Attendees at the press conference included representatives from most, if not all, of Pittsburgh's labor unions, trade associations, regional developers, and the Western PA Builders Guild. Bob Dagostino and Joelle Salerno attended on behalf of NECA, along with Michael Dunleavy and Greg Vogt from IBEW Local 5.


[Click here](#) to read the Mayor's press release and the text of the Executive Order.

## WPA NECA Joins Nuclear Energy Coalition

Nuclear facilities generate nearly 40% of the electricity in Pennsylvania every year, producing over 90% of the state's carbon-free electricity. PA also has one of the largest nuclear fleets in the country, including five facilities in the Commonwealth with a total of nine reactors.

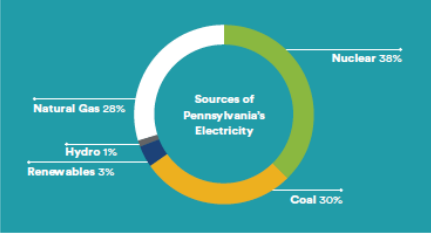
### SEVEN FACTS

ABOUT HOW NUCLEAR POWERS PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

# 38%

Nuclear energy is the single greatest contributor to Pennsylvania's energy generation portfolio, representing 38% of the mix, while accounting for more than 90% of the Commonwealth's clean power.<sup>1,2</sup>



Source	Percentage
Nuclear	38%
Coal	30%
Natural Gas	28%
Hydro	1%
Renewables	3%

<h3>\$2B</h3> <p>Pennsylvania's nuclear energy contributes approximately \$2b to the state's gross domestic product and is responsible for \$59m in tax revenue annually.<sup>3</sup> This tax money funds vital community services like schools, roads, public transportation and law enforcement.</p>	<h3>16k jobs</h3> <p>More than 16,000 Pennsylvania jobs depend on nuclear energy.<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania is home to more than 500 companies working in the nuclear industry.<sup>1</sup></p>	<h3>9 reactors</h3> <p>Pennsylvania is a national leader in nuclear energy production. The United States' first nuclear reactor was built in Shippingport, PA, and the Commonwealth today is second in the nation in nuclear power generating capacity. Pennsylvania is home to nine operational reactors at five sites.<sup>1,2</sup></p>
<h3>93%</h3> <p>Nuclear energy represents 93% of Pennsylvania's carbon-free electricity and is the only "clean-air" source that can produce large amounts of electricity around the clock, as well as in extreme and inclement weather conditions.<sup>1</sup></p>	<h3>37M</h3> <p>Pennsylvania's nuclear energy operations avoid 37m tons of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions each year. This is equivalent to taking 8 million passenger cars off the road.<sup>2</sup></p>	<h3>\$788M</h3> <p>Nuclear energy prevents higher electricity prices of approximately \$788m annually. Without nuclear in the energy mix, ratepayers would spend \$6.6b more over the next ten years. In addition, Pennsylvania would lose its energy independence and need to import about 12% of its total electricity needs from other states.<sup>2</sup></p>

<sup>1</sup> 2012 Pennsylvania Fact Sheet: <https://www.nec.org/Content/related-media/164846/164846.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania Nuclear Power Plant Contribution to the State Economy - Brandt Report: [http://www.pennstate.edu/news/2014/05/20/14\\_05\\_20\\_nuclear\\_report.pdf](http://www.pennstate.edu/news/2014/05/20/14_05_20_nuclear_report.pdf)  
<sup>3</sup> U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: <https://www.nrc.gov/press/2013/03/20130320nec.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NUCLEARPOWERSPENNSYLVANIA.COM](http://WWW.NUCLEARPOWERSPENNSYLVANIA.COM)

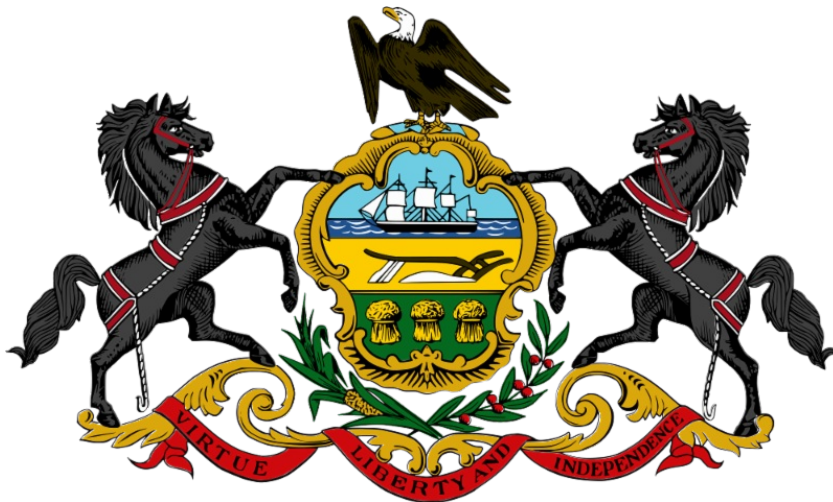
In an effort to diversify the chapter's all-of-the-above energy advocacy, in June WPA NECA joined the Nuclear Powers PA coalition, along with the Penn-Del-Jersey NECA chapter and a number of business and trade groups throughout the state.

The nuclear energy industry has encountered financial difficulties in recent years due to the abundant natural gas resources that significantly lowered energy costs. One of the most recognizable examples has been the announcement of the [early closure of the Three Mile Island nuclear facility](#) in central PA by the end of 2019.

While NECA supports and helps advocate for the important place of natural gas in the Western PA economy, utilizing diverse methods of electricity production is important for overall energy stability and security over time.

As a member of Nuclear Powers PA, a complementary organization to the newly-formed Nuclear Energy Caucus in the PA General Assembly, WPA NECA will be included in discussions about the future of nuclear energy in PA.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Nuclear Powers PA.



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WPA NECA Government Affairs

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