



State legislator tours Montour power plant

State Rep. Kurt Masser (R-Columbia, Montour and Northumberland) toured the Montour power plant in May as part of his efforts to learn more about businesses in the district he represents. Joining him on the tour were his district office manager, Harold Hurst, and Fred Gaffney, president of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce.

“Through personal interactions, local leaders can see our genuine concern for many of the issues on their priority list — safety, the environment, being a good employer, and promoting a sound economy,” said Michael Munroe, Montour plant manager.

Teri MacBride, Susquehanna Valley regional community relations director for PPL, arranged the tour and helped Munroe guide the visitors around the plant. Afterward, the guests joined Munroe and MacBride at the Montour Preserve for a spring meeting of the Plant Advisory Committee, a group of nearby residents that meets twice a year to discuss issues and the relationship between the plant and the community.

At the meeting, Munroe provided an overview of the plant's recent scheduled outage activities and safety programs. The committee members then took advantage of the

Montour plant manager Michael Munroe explains the information on a Control Room monitor during state Rep. Kurt Masser's visit to the plant.



opportunity to ask Masser about his position on a number of key issues.

“I appreciate the time Michael spent explaining how the plant worked and the issues most important to PPL and its employees,” said

Masser. “I’ve gained a better appreciation for the many challenges facing power plants and other local businesses regarding upcoming legislation.”

Other community members benefit from plant tours

Engineers from 20 businesses toured the Montour plant late last year to learn more about power production and proposed regulations affecting the electric industry.

“These individuals are in key positions within their own companies and understand the need to be good stewards of the environment, respond to market pressures and achieve operational excellence,” said Teri MacBride, Susquehanna Valley regional community relations director for

PPL who made the arrangements for the tour.

The tour was sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Chapter 49, located in Williamsport, Pa.



Large spring overhaul of plant equipment boosted local economy

More than 600 contract workers joined PPL Montour employees to overhaul Unit 1 at the Montour power plant this spring. Workers completed thousands of individual tasks during the six-week-long outage.

“Large overhauls like the one we completed this spring help keep the units operating safely and efficiently,” said Dom Agatone, Montour’s outage manager.

“The influx of contractors also boosts our local economy by using local hotels, restaurants and shops, he said.

Workers made significant upgrades to the boiler including replacing coal nozzles that shoot coal into the boiler, and 227 superheater assemblies, which consists of a series of nested tubes about 46 high by 10 feet wide. The assemblies increase the temperature of the steam coming from the boiler. Crews also replaced large sections of the boiler walls — an accomplishment that required more than 3,000 individual welds.

Workers overhauled the unit’s high pressure and intermediate turbines to



Each unit has four turbines that spin in tandem. Steam first hits a 5-foot diameter high pressure turbine, flows to the 6-foot diameter intermediate turbines and then into two successive low pressure turbines 12-feet in diameter. This photo is a low pressure turbine.

ensure reliability. The turbines spin at about 3,600 revolutions per minute, powered by steam coming from the boiler as fast as the speed of sound. The turbines spin a copper core, which also was replaced, inside the generator to create electricity.

The plant’s digital control system, which enables plant operators to monitor and control systems

throughout the plant from computers in the Control Room, was upgraded.

The changes take advantage of improved technology and advance designs to help the plant operate more safely and efficiently, and represent millions of dollars invested into the long-term operation of the plant, Agatone said.

New building will protect specialized equipment from the weather

Operating a power plant requires large, specialized equipment that often takes months, sometimes years, to custom manufacture. The long lead time and high costs make it prudent to have spare parts for this key equipment stored on site should they be needed. To protect the equipment from the weather, Montour constructed a 31,000 square foot building on the southeast corner of plant property along Strawberry Ridge Road.

The storage building will house a number of large pieces of equipment.

A local contractor also constructed an access road and extend the plant’s rail line so large equipment can be brought to the building by train or truck.



Employee in the Community: **Business Manager Tom Hummer**



Tom Hummer has championed the United Way campaign efforts at the Montour power plant for the past two years.

“Through his leadership, Tom has helped raised tens of thousands of dollars for the United Way and the many local agencies that benefit from the annual campaign,” said Michael Munroe, plant manager. “With the help of a number of dedicated employees, he planned fundraising activities and encouraged co-workers to give generously. I commend their hard work and the generosity of everyone who gave.”

Hummer has worked for PPL Montour for 33 years, most recently as the manager of the plant’s accounting process.

PPL continues its tradition of giving

PPL has continued to support the community by contributing funds and time to a number of local organizations that enhance the health and safety of nearby residents.

“We contribute to organizations that provide much-needed community services to a large geographic area,” said Teri MacBride, Susquehanna

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Diana Dixon, left, executive director of Danville Child Development Center, accepts a donation from PPL Montour, presented by Teri MacBride, PPL regional community relations director. The “friends” joining them were created by kids in DCDC’s School Age Care for Kids program.

PPL, employees honored by United Way of Columbia County

PPL and its employees have been honored once again by the Columbia County United Way as the agency’s largest contributor for 2011. PPL has earned this distinction for the past several years.

PPL and its local employees pledged more than \$85,000 for the 2011 United Way campaign held last fall. The United Way of Columbia County raised a total of \$518,795.

“The agency’s executive director personally expressed his gratitude for PPL’s support, which is especially appreciated in the current economy,”



Paul Page, campaign chairman for the Columbia County United Way, presents PPL’s Teri MacBride with an award for again being the organization’s largest contributor.

said Teri MacBride, PPL’s regional community relations director for the Susquehanna Valley area. “This generosity of PPL employees is a reflection of our commitment to good citizenship and support for organizations that improve the quality of life in our communities.”

Falcons return to nest at Montour

A pair of peregrine falcons returned to nest at the Montour plant this spring despite having their penthouse home renovated and relocated. Like many birds of prey, peregrine falcons typically mate for life and return to the same nest every year.

Late last year, Montour employees removed the platform that held the existing nest box for safety reasons. One of the workers built a new nesting box and relocated it onto a platform higher on one of the retired chimney stacks, which has not been used since the construction of the scrubbers.

Plant employees spotted adults flying among plant buildings near the nest site this spring. A single young falcon was observed at the nest box. The fledgling left the nest in late May and will remain near its parents until the end of the summer.

The peregrine falcon is an endangered species in Pennsylvania with less than 20 nests throughout the state.

“Improvements in habitat are helping to increase the population of birds of prey throughout the state,” said Jon Beam, a naturalist for the Montour Preserve who works closely with Pennsylvania Game Commission to enhance wildlife preservation. “PPL has played an integral role in this effort.”

Some of the confirmed peregrine falcon nesting sites in Pennsylvania are located on PPL land, including the Susquehanna Riverlands environmental preserve and the Martins Creek and Montour power plants.



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Tradition of giving *(Continued from page 3)*

Valley regional community relations director for PPL. “Supporting these services benefits all of us who live and work near the Montour plant.”

The Montour plant provided funds to various organizations like the Washingtonville Fire Company for a new quick response service truck; the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau in recognition of the value the organization brings to the local economy by promoting tourism; the Danville Child Development Center to help offset operating expenses so

it can continue to provide quality educational services to about 500 preschool and school-aged children whose parents work in the area. The plant also contributed to SUNCOM, which provides unique programs for adults with disabilities to assist them in developing work and daily living skills to lead a more independent, fulfilling life.

PPL also has supported the American Red Cross by holding blood drives at the plant.

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Want to know more about what’s going on at Montour? Check out the Montour plant websites at: <http://www.pplweb.com/ppl+generation/ppl+montour.htm>. Or visit the Montour Preserve website at: <http://www.pplweb.com/community+partners/our+communities/environmental+preserves/Montour+Home.htm>.

Local greenhouse facility produces vegetables for city shops

Lakeville Specialty Produce has a 1.25-acre greenhouse facility the produces vegetables without soil or pesticides. The greenhouse is located near PPL’s Montour power plant, which provides warm water to help the plants grow.

Many of the products are shipped to restaurants, caterers, specialty stores and retail produce markets in New York City.