

International. Operating Engineer

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Operators
build nation's
largest coal-fired
power plant

Operators providing manpower for construction of PSEC power plant

As Chad Goldschmidt takes his seat in the cab of his long boom crane, the Local 520 operator peers across the sun rising along the skyline of cranes that can be seen for miles, which neighbors from nearby communities now refer to as the “crane farm.”

“Not many people can lace up their boots, go to work and make history, but that in essence is what we’re doing here,” said Goldschmidt, who also serves as a Local 520 trustee.

And history is exactly what Goldschmidt and 165 other operating engineers representing Local 520 and more than 20 other IUOE



Ralph Griebel and Blake Birkner are Local 520 forklift operators on the \$4 billion PSEC project in Illinois.

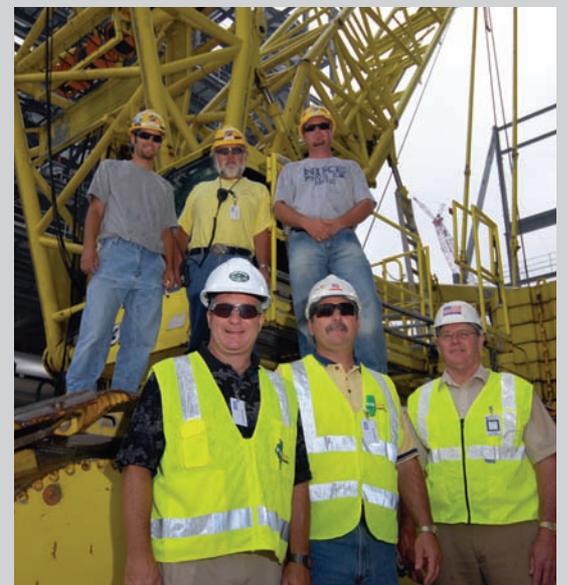
locals are making in southern Illinois with the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC). The 1,600-megawatt power plant is currently the largest power plant under construction in the United States.

“Projects of this magnitude not only employ a large number of our members, but also allow us to reach out to other locals for qualified help,” said Local 520 Business Manager Ron Johnson. “The PSEC project gives operating engineers from many locals an opportunity to gain valuable large-project experience.”

With a price tag of more than \$4 billion, the plant will be fueled by coal from a mine being constructed in tandem with the new generating plant. Once completed in 2012, the facility will generate enough power to serve 2.5 million households over a nine-state span.

Ownership consists of eight not-for-profit public power utilities and the world’s largest coal company, Peabody Energy.

“Prairie State is a significant contributor fueling the struggling economic engine,” said Prairie State Generating Company, LLC President and CEO Peter DeQuattro. “We expect over 2,700 workers at peak construction, and the Operating Engineers are an important part of our team.”



Pictured front row, from the left are: IUOE International Representative Jeff Aboussie, Local 520 Treasurer/Business Representative Mike Parkinson and Business Manager Ron Johnson. Back row, same order, are Local 520 Operator Derek Galle, Financial Secretary/General Foreman Steve Wolff and Trustee/Crane Operator Chad Goldschmidt.

The PSEC contract was awarded to Bechtel, which broke ground on the project in 2007. To date, the project is 24% complete overall, with the Unit 1 Boiler and Turbine Structures complete and 130,000 cubic yards of concrete installed. Completion of Unit 1 is targeted for mid-2011, with Unit 2 following eight months later.



Local 520's Lester Robison operates a dozer on the PSEC project.

“The residents in the surrounding farming communities refer to the project as the ‘crane farm,’” says, Bruce McKenzie, Bechtel field superintendent. “In addition to all the earth-moving equipment that will be used, the project will utilize 15 heavy-lift, long-boom cranes which can be seen for miles. These cranes have the capacity to lift equipment weighing up to 600 tons for installation in the plant.”

The community is seeing much more than just cranes. An economic impact study by the University of Illinois estimates that over 30 years, PSEC will contribute \$22.6 billion into Illinois in ongoing economic benefits. The PSEC project will create a peak employment of construction workers of more than 2,700 to build the plant and approximately 500 permanent, high-paying, skilled positions between the power plant and mine for commercial operation.

“PSEC is uniquely positioned among major industrial projects under construction in the U.S. today. It’s a fully funded project which means it will not be slowed down or cancelled due to the economic slowdown in the country,” said Charlie Duckworth, Bechtel’s labor relations manager. “Bechtel wanted to promote the project, the area, the local unions, and good paying, union craft jobs into 2012.”

Aside from the sheer size, cost and economic impact of the project, the PSEC project also stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when labor and management work together. This harmonious relationship is rooted in an emphasis on skilled labor and safety.

“The entire project team - craftsmen, superintendents, engineers and managers - strive for ‘Zero Accident Performance’ every day,” explains Dave Ross, Bechtel site manager. “We encourage everyone to make safety one of their core values. One of the processes we use to support our commitment to safety is the ‘People Based Safety (PBS) team’ a craftsmen-owned team empowered to help every employee on the project understand the importance

of safe work practices. Local 520 Operators Ryan Batson, Kent Brickey, Ed Bryan and Jerry Phillips are important members of our PBS team.”

“Safety is a top priority on the PSEC jobsite, the concept of the PBS team is a prime example of labor and management working together to provide a safer work place,” added Local 520 Business Manager Johnson. “We are proud to be a part of this team.”

“As steward, I’ve had the opportunity to work closely with members from Local 520 and other operators from across the nation,” said Goldschmidt. “It is gratifying as an operating engineer to know that even though there are challenges on a job of this size, there are good skilled union craftsmen from not only the IUOE, but other labor organizations that can come together with management and make a project of this magnitude successful.”

For more information visit www.prairiestateenergycampus.com.



Dozer and roller operators Mike Dietz, left, and Don Rakers are part of the team of 165 operators building the new power plant.



ABOVE: Local 520 Business Manager Ron Johnson, Treasurer/Business Representative Mike Parkinson and Bechtel Labor Relations Manager Charlie Duckworth.

INSET: Local 520 operators Ryan Stolte, Don Fadler and Lance Miller.

PSEC by the numbers:

2,700 construction workers employed to build the plant

42,000 tons of steel

4,500 miles of linear footage of mining

1,200 miles of electrical cable (stretching from St. Louis, MO to El Paso, TX)

120 miles of piping

165,000 cubic yards of concrete (filling more than 50 Olympic-size swimming pools)

1,600 megawatts of power (serving 2.5 million homes across nine states)