



New Coal-to-Liquids Facility Planned for Mason County



A new \$1.2 billion coal-to-liquids fuel facility project will soon break ground in Mason County, according to the development company planning to build it.

Domestic Synthetic Fuels (DS Fuels), a West Virginia-owned company, said in a news release that it will convert the state's abundant coal and natural gas to gasoline and other fuels. It will be the first of its kind in the United States.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently approved the draft construction permit for the project. Company officials said they plan a series of community open house meetings to explain the project and its benefits to the community.

"We want to be as transparent as possible in explaining this project to our neighbors," Kevin Whited, president of the development company that is building the facility.

According to Whited, the coal to liquids facility is expected to create 130 full-time jobs, including management, mining and construction, and boost the local, state and regional economy. He said DS Fuels will bring coal from nearby Kanawha County to feed the coal to liquids facility. The project is expected to create more than 100 mining jobs to

supply the facility. Thousands of construction jobs also will be created, Whited added. "I'm from West Virginia," Whited said. "We have West Virginians unemployed, and the coal industry has been decimated. We're not the solution to revive it, but we're going to be part of it."

Whited said the Mason County facility will differ from previous coal to liquids projects proposed for the state. "This is environmentally sound," Whited said. "The technology is more advanced, and the direct method used does not actually burn coal, but subjects it to heat and pressure, making the process much greener."

Whited said the direct coal to liquids process to be utilized in Mason County mixes coal with a catalyst and hydrogen derived from natural gas and subjects the mixture to heat and pressure to produce ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel, gasoline and other liquids. The resulting fuels burn cleaner than those refined from petroleum and are just as effective in vehicles.

"The facility serves a vital role," said Chris Hamilton, senior vice president of the West Virginia Coal Association. "For decades, we've been looking at ways to expand the coal usage, coal development, activities and how we can expand the overall fossil fuel portfolio. Any type of domestic homegrown, synthetic fuel particularly manufactured from coal accelerates those objectives."

To read more: https://www.herald-dispatch.com/_recent_news/new-coal-to-liquids-facility-planned-for-mason-county/article_815ea19e-91e5-11e9-a7e1-af0026d591ca.html



DBE Opportunities

**Want to learn more about the DBE Program?
Call or email us today to receive assistance in the below categories!**

- Getting a letter of bond ability
- Capability Statement Development and Assistance
- Website Development and Assistance
- How to become DBE Certified
- Training and Technical Assistance

Phone Number: 800-423-7058

Email: Info@wvdbesupport.com

About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program.

We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Why Your Company Needs an Electrical Safety Program

The importance of implementing safety processes & what you should include in your checklist



Workplace safety is vital to a company's success. It affects everything from customer satisfaction to employee morale to the dollars and cents of productivity, legal fees and compliance. In today's competitive

business environment, it's especially important to reduce employee injuries and incident rates to avoid the costs of downtime. One major factor in achieving these goals is electricity. Companies need to know what hazards are lurking on their jobsites.

Implementing comprehensive electrical safety programs designed to prevent electrical equipment failures can not only reduce incidents, but also improve a company's overall safety culture, leading to greater awareness, trust and cost savings. This involves tackling the "root cause" of workplace injuries—failure to pinpoint hazards in the first place. A critical element in any effective safety program is to proactively identify and assess present culprits on an ongoing basis. In other words, contractors need to know the risks, then do what it takes to mitigate them.

To identify and assess hazards, employees and team leaders need to:

- Collect and review information about the hazards present, or likely to be present, in the workplace
- Conduct periodic workplace inspections to detect new or recurring hazards
- Conduct regular training to keep employees updated on current changes

Furthermore, an effective electrical safety program includes these elements:

- Strong electrical safety policies
- Arc flash analysis

- Robust lockout/tagout programs, including machine specifics and annual recertification
- Proper labeling for all electrical equipment
- Personal protection equipment (PPE) availability and corresponding training
- Proper use of test equipment
- Knowledge of necessary documentation for job safety plans and briefs, energized electrical work permits, and comprehensive electrical safety training programs

Electrical Safety Training Saves Lives

There are many instances when being properly trained may save an employee's life. For example, a worker may experience a change in environmental conditions in a very short amount of time on the job. Test equipment may be operating perfectly, but a change in location from extreme cold to extreme heat can cause condensation to build up, resulting in test equipment hazards.

Another highly dangerous situation, which actually occurred at a facility where roof repairs were being completed, resulted in a severe arc flash incident. Continuous rain over the course of 2 days created a leak that ran down an interior wall and into the back of one of the main electrical panels within the facility. The hidden leak caused an explosive arc flash, which destroyed the room. Thankfully, all employees who would have been working in the area were off duty and no injuries resulted.

Both of these examples illustrate potential workplace hazards. Electrical dangers are numerous, and it is imperative companies have educated employees armed with the most updated information available. Training should be based on the level of risk to employee. The electrical employee who accesses and is exposed to energized equipment will require the highest amount of training. Training will allow employees to understand and retain the skills and knowledge necessary to be a qualified electrical worker.

To read more: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/safety/why-your-company-needs-electrical-safety-program>

Supportive Services Offered



- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Website Development



**BONDING,
FINANCING,
AND
INSURANCE**

CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.

CEI DBE Supportive Services

Call 800-423-7058 or visit us online at www.wvdbesupport.com