

May 23, 2018
Nuclear Energy Caucus

Good morning members of the Committee

- Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the hearing this morning
- My name is Kristopher Anderson and I work as an International Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Third District, which encompasses Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware
- Prior to accepting this position, I was an officer with IBEW Local 29 out of the Pittsburgh area, which represents Beaver Valley Nuclear plant.
- While I did not work at a nuclear facility, I quickly became aware of the level of skill, education, and dedication that was required to man these nuclear generation plants.

On December 23, 1957, The Shippingport Atomic Power Plant became the world's first full-scale atomic electric power plant devoted exclusively to civil nuclear energy generation.

Almost immediately, ancillary industries started to expand all throughout the Ohio Valley area. One of the major companies that dedicated a great portion of their business to the Nuclear industry was The Westinghouse Electric Company, which still operates its nuclear headquarters in Cranberry, Pa., employing roughly 4,000 people in the Pittsburgh area. It was a logical relationship between the industries, with the convenient location and the specialty skill-set that Westinghouse could supply. Western Pennsylvania had quickly positioned itself as the epicenter of the nuclear generation industry from the outset. The Shippingport plant operated successfully for the next 25 years, until it was decommissioned on October 1st, 1982. During that time, construction was started on Beaver Valley Unit 1, which would later replace the original reactor at Shippingport. To complete the Beaver Valley Nuclear fleet, Unit 2 was commissioned for service on November 17th, 1987. The fleet has supplied electricity to the area ever since.

As of today, there are over 1,000 people that are employed by The Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant. This number easily doubles during scheduled outages, when counting contractors. These numbers do not include the number of jobs that are brought to the areas via the manufacturing branch. The IBEW represents men and women who work in all phases of the Nuclear Industry. Whether it be the men and women who man the plant on a daily basis, where the IBEW represents about 500 members at the Beaver Valley plant, the members who go to the plant during scheduled outages to perform maintenance, LU 712 supplied about 50,000-man-hours in 2016 alone, or the hard-working individuals at various manufacturing plants throughout the Western Pa. area. Throughout the area, the IBEW represents roughly 500 men and women at several manufacturing plants. This doesn't include the several other International Unions that represent people as well.

All told, these nuclear plants have played an integral part to Western Pennsylvania for the better part of the last 60 years. We have developed some of the best technologies still in use today. The jobs and skills that have been developed in response to nuclear industry's demands have made the quality of life better for everyone in the Commonwealth. As a lifelong resident of the Western Pennsylvania, I can attest that we do not need a case study of what happens when a large industry exits an area. From the banks of the Ohio river, to all along the Susquehanna, these nuclear generation stations have been great neighbors in our communities.