

Greg Vogt
IBEW Local No. 5

DOE Regional Hydrogen Hub Notes

BACKGROUND

- **Total Appropriation:** \$8 billion (\$1.6 billion/yr) in the form of grants and cooperative agreements
- **Recipients:** Technology Developers, Industry, Utilities, Universities, National Laboratories, Engineering and Construction firms, State and Local Governments, Tribal, Environmental Groups, and Community Based Organizations.
- **Description:** To support the development of at least 4 regional clean hydrogen hubs to improve clean hydrogen production, processing, delivery, storage, and end use.
 - DOE is directed to select regional clean hydrogen hubs that reflect feedstock, end-use, and geographic diversity, at least two regional clean hydrogen hubs must be located in regions of the U.S. with the greatest natural gas resources.
 - DOE will select proposals that prioritize employment opportunities.
- **Eligible Uses:** Projects that demonstrate the production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use of, clean hydrogen through regional clean hydrogen hubs, which are networks of clean hydrogen producers, potential clean hydrogen consumers, and connective infrastructure located in proximity.
- **Note:** This work is covered by Davis-Bacon

KEY POINTS MADE BY THROUGH NOI AND RFI

- “The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will incorporate a range of equity considerations including...justice, labor and community engagement, consent-based siting, quality jobs, and inclusive workforce development to support the Biden Administration’s decarbonization goals of a 50-52% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2005 levels by 2030, a carbon-pollution-free power sector by 2035, and a net-zero GHG emissions economy by 2050.”

Under the Notice of Intent

- “The FOA will also incorporate a range of equity considerations including energy and environmental justice, labor and community engagement, consent-based siting, quality jobs, and inclusive workforce development” Page 2
- “Labor and community engagement will be a central component to successful implementation across the entire H2Hub project duration.” Page 3
- “Teams are encouraged to maximize meaningful, early engagement with stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities, Tribal communities, and labor unions to address environmental justice and workforce or other economic concerns and opportunities, including through the use of Community Benefits Agreements⁹ or similar structured partnerships.” Page 3
- “DOE will require projects funded under the FOA to track and report on several outcomes and outputs, including those related to energy and environmental justice; consent-based siting; labor and community engagement” Page 4

Under the Request for Information

- “The regional clean hydrogen hubs will support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, the incorporation of strong labor standards, and training and placement programs, especially registered apprenticeship.” Page 2

- The RFI encourages “formal partnership with and support from relevant local labor unions” Page 9
- “In keeping with the administration’s goals, and as an agency whose mission is to help strengthen our country’s energy prosperity, the Department of Energy strongly supports investments that expand union jobs, improve job quality through the adoption of strong labor standards, increase job access, strengthen local economies, and develop a diverse workforce for the work of building and maintaining the country’s energy infrastructure and growing domestic manufacturing. The Department intends to use the H2Hubs to support the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union and the incorporation of strong labor standards and training and placement programs, especially registered apprenticeship.” Page 14

APPLICATION

- After indications from the RFI and NOI it is clear there are key topics that fit the Administration’s desire for these projects to create the most economic good and should be included in any application. Those points include:
 - Registered Apprenticeship Programs
 - Pre-apprenticeship programs also known as Apprenticeship Readiness Programs
 - Project Labor Agreements
 - Acknowledgement that Davis Bacon wages will be closely tracked, and the payment of prevailing wage will be enforced
- To reach these goals and have a successful application, we encourage all interested councils to work with stakeholders and sign an MOU as early as possible in the process. This MOU can be highlighted in an application to show the early outreach to labor and the commitment to well-paying middleclass jobs.

LINKS

- DOE Announcement: ([LINK](#))
- Link to NOI to issue FOA: ([LINK](#))

Pittsburgh Building and Construction Trades Council

Testimony

August 30, 2022

Thank you, Representative Nelson, Chairman Causer, and all the members of the Policy committee for hosting this hearing on the Regional Hydrogen Hub Initiative. We thank the committee for allowing me to present our testimony.

I'm Greg Vogt, Secretary Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Building and Construction Trades Council. The Pittsburgh Building and Construction Trades Council represents the collective interests of the 16 unionized construction trade unions in our seven-county area here in Southwestern Pennsylvania. All our affiliates have active state and federally approved registered apprenticeship and training programs. Our members earn good middle class wages, health care, pensions, and annuities allowing for our members to have a solid career and the ability to retire with dignity and not be a burden on any governmental agency.

Our council is affiliated with NABTU: North America's Building Trades Unions. I've attached their two-page primer on the DOE Hydrogen Hub initiative and the DOE Request for information for your perusal. I will note that NABTU's guidance in this primer suggest throughout "Labor and community engagement will be a central component to successful implementation across the entire H2Hub project duration."

Indications from the RFI and NOI make clear there are key topics that fit the Administration's desire for these projects to create the most economic good and should be included in any application.

Those points include:

- o Registered Apprenticeship Programs
- o Pre-apprenticeship programs also known as Apprenticeship Readiness Programs
- o Collective Bargaining Agreements
- o Project Labor Agreements
- o Acknowledgement that Davis Bacon wages will be closely tracked, and the payment of prevailing wage will be enforced

"To reach these goals and have a successful application, we encourage all interested councils to work with stakeholders and sign an MOU as early as possible in the process. This MOU can be highlighted in an application to show the early outreach to labor and the commitment to well-paying middle-class jobs."

I'm here today to state our willingness to work with stakeholders and our willingness to enter a MOU with those working on this application—the promise to bring Hydrogen Hub to Pennsylvania. We believe that the inclusion of an MOU in this application will make the application stand out from any competitors. It would highlight the excellent labor-management environment that exists here in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for this effort.