



U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz: Pittsburgh offers a model for recruiting and training energy workforce of the future

Secretary Moniz, federal officials for Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs hold Energy Roundtable with Pittsburgh energy sector leaders to frame unique public-private partnership to fill current and future energy jobs

Commit to building career awareness and energy job training for military veterans and transitioning service members

(PITTSBURGH – July 17, 2015) – U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz and federal officials from the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs met with energy sector CEOs in the Pittsburgh region today to frame a unique public-private partnership that will help connect military veterans and service members to in-demand energy jobs in this region.

Convened by the Energy Alliance of Greater Pittsburgh (EAGP), a partnership of energy sector-related businesses, universities, nonprofits and research organizations, including the National Energy Technology Laboratory, based in South Park, Pa., the Roundtable focused on the future of the energy sector and the need for a globally competitive, skilled energy workforce. EAGP is a program of the [Allegany Conference on Community Development](#) and [Innovation Works](#).

The CEOs and federal agency participants at the Roundtable agreed to execute three action steps that will accelerate training and hiring of transitioning service members and veterans into energy and manufacturing jobs:

- **Piloting a new program of career awareness, assessment and training at up to four military installations**, leading to civilian certifications that will help transitioning service members explore and prepare for careers in the energy sector and related manufacturing jobs in the Pittsburgh region. The Department of Defense SkillBridge authority promotes civilian job training available to transitioning military service members and helps link military occupations to civilian careers. Potential jobs include: Industrial machinery mechanics, machinists, utility workers and CDL drivers with Hazmat certifications.
- **Increasing recruiting of un- and underemployed veterans already in the Pittsburgh region** for in-demand jobs using the regional [ServiceToOpportunity.org](#) platform, a program of the

Allegheny Conference, as well as the national [Veterans Employment Center](#) to increase career awareness and connect ready-to-work veterans with ready-to-hire employers.

- **Exploring further the creation of an interagency Energy Workforce Institute** that would bring federal agencies together with universities, schools, industry and labor representatives, workforce development practitioners and apprenticeship programs across the Pittsburgh region to expedite training and hiring for energy and related manufacturing jobs.

“Pittsburgh is an ideal location to create the next-generation energy workforce, combining workforce training and advancing technologies. The National Energy Technology Laboratory, one of 17 federal energy laboratories in the U.S. is located here; there is a growing energy sector due to the emergence of the shale gas industry and there is strong support from community leaders. I think Pittsburgh is unique in bringing all of these strengths together in one place, said Secretary Moniz.

“A combination of factors, including continued technological advances and planned investments in the nation’s energy infrastructure, will create 1.5 million new jobs in the energy sector in the next 15 years. We need to recruit, train and employ these workers to be ready to build and maintain our energy infrastructure and implement emerging technologies. This is truly an underappreciated opportunity for our nation. Now’s the time for us to take the lead and make our country more competitive globally,” said Secretary Moniz.

Pittsburgh’s Combination of Veterans and In-Demand Energy Jobs

The Pittsburgh region currently has over 25,000 open jobs, with 2,500 of those concentrated in high-demand energy and related manufacturing occupations. At the same time, the region faces a gap of about 140,000 potential workers as Baby Boomers retire over the coming years.

Allegheny Conference research found that military veterans possess the training, experience and teamwork skills that can make them highly effective in energy and manufacturing jobs. Programs such as ShaleNET, a natural gas training program developed by the Allegheny Conference in conjunction with education and training partners, has prepared hundreds of veterans for careers in the natural gas industry. Pittsburgh has been rated as the best place in the nation for veterans to pursue higher education and jump-start their civilian careers. The region is already home to about 200,000 veterans and thousands more are expected to return here in the next five years as one million service members transition out of the military.

“We have seen firsthand the value that military veterans bring to the energy sector. At Peoples, we have hired veterans who have been ready to contribute from their first day on the job,” said Morgan O’Brien, CEO, Peoples Natural Gas and chair, Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

“We embarked on this partnership with the Departments of Energy, Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs late last year at the Hiring our Heroes event as we launched Service to Opportunity, our regional online platform connecting veterans to employers. Today’s discussions are advancing our ongoing efforts to connect transitioning service members and veterans to the high-demand jobs in energy and

manufacturing in this region,” said Dennis Yablonsky, EAGP co-chair and CEO of the Allegheny Conference.

“We see a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to develop a local workforce prepared for the skilled jobs that are anticipated in the growing regional energy and manufacturing industries,” said Nigel Hearne, president of Chevron Appalachia based in Moon Township, Pa. “Chevron supports ShaleNET and Service to Opportunity to help connect young people entering the workforce, adults looking to re-train, and our returning military veterans with well-paying jobs that allow them to live, work, and thrive here in their hometowns.”

The Energy Alliance of Greater Pittsburgh will report on the progress of this new partnership with the federal agencies at the Annual Meeting of the Allegheny Conference on November 4, 2015.

About [Service to Opportunity](#)

Service to Opportunity is a unique online matching platform that directly connects job-seeking skilled veterans and transitioning service members to employers with open jobs in energy and manufacturing in the Greater Pittsburgh region. It’s a free service provided by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and sponsored by grants from the Appalachia Partnership Initiative and the Colcom Foundation.

About [ShaleNET](#)

The Pittsburgh region has already begun training energy sector workers through ShaleNET, a collaboration of community colleges across 5 states that began with job training and now offers full stackable credential programs for energy and manufacturing workers. Founded in 2010, ShaleNET has received \$20M in U.S. Department of Labor funding to develop and disseminate its education and training model. The program has trained over 6,000 participants, with more than 3,600 finding employment, more than a third of whom are veterans.

About the [Energy Alliance of Greater Pittsburgh](#)

The mission of the Energy Alliance of Greater Pittsburgh – a partnership of 100+ companies, universities, government agencies and nonprofits - is to increase the development of our energy-related assets and a globally competitive workforce while advancing our global leadership in improving the environment.

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