



Energy Center
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for the **Northside**

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CCAC's New Science Center

A LEED® building for a leading school



Courtesy CCAC

Construction is expected to begin this summer on the new K. Leroy Irvis Science Center on CCAC's 10-acre Allegheny Campus, where it will be visible from the main highways in and out of the city. It will join 476,000 sq ft of existing building space, bringing the campus total to more than half a million square feet.

When high school graduates in western Pennsylvania continue their education, many choose the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). In fact, the two-year institution is the largest provider of educational services in the western part of the state, with an annual enrollment of more than 70,000 credit and noncredit students.

CCAC prides itself on being a leader in post-secondary education, which is reflected in its commitment to maintaining state-of-the-art facilities and retaining expert faculty. This summer, CCAC – an NRG Energy Center steam

and chilled-water customer – will break ground for the newest building on its Allegheny campus on Pittsburgh's North Shore, the K. Leroy Irvis Science Center. The \$21 million, 65,000-sq-ft facility will support the college's highly acclaimed science- and health care-related programs with the most technologically advanced teaching tools and equipment. The center also will serve as a model of "going green" on an urban campus.

According to CCAC spokesman David Hoovler, the new science center should be fully ready for use by September

2012. It will replace facilities that have served the college well but are now outdated. Programs ranging from occupational therapy and health information technology to biotechnology and nuclear medicine will call the new facility home.

"CCAC has a long and distinguished record of educating health care professionals," notes Hoovler. "We are the fourth-largest provider of nursing associate's degrees in the nation among all institutions and the second among two-year institutions." The college also excels at workforce training, partnering, for example, with almost every major hospital and health care provider in the region.

As a leader in the sciences it's only fitting that CCAC would plan the K. Leroy Irvis Science Center as a showcase for green building design. The facility is being designed and will be constructed and operated in anticipation of receiving a LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification. A long list of energy-efficient and sustainable features will be incorporated, including solar panels to offset some of the center's energy use; high-efficiency lighting; variable-speed motors; a system for collecting and processing rainwater for use in the pool in the adjacent physical education building; and heat recovery systems to capture and reuse heat that would otherwise be wasted.

Energy-efficient district heating and cooling services from NRG will also contribute to the science center's LEED

CCAC continues...

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certification. The building will use NRG's steam and chilled water for space heating, space cooling and domestic hot water. NRG also is providing resources to help the college obtain ACT 120 funding for energy conservation projects, beginning with lighting for the gym, and will provide additional energy-saving guidance. (See sidebar below for services provided by NRG.) In addition to our commitment to help the college save on energy costs, NRG supports the CCAC Educational Foundation; our GM, Tim Merrill, currently serves on that board as vice president.

CCAC's investment in this remarkable new building – nearly 15 years in the making – couldn't come at a more auspicious time. A recent study commissioned by the college showed that health care-related job prospects are hot and getting hotter, and enrollment at CCAC is on the rise as community colleges enjoy a surge in popularity.

In addition, CCAC works closely with local unions to prepare people to work in the trades, an area that has grown



Photo: Annie O'Neill, Courtesy CCAC

Dignitaries gathered Sept. 18, 2009, for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the K. Leroy Irvis Science Center. Irvis represented the 19th District of Pittsburgh in the state House from 1959 to 1988 and was Speaker of the House. He cosponsored the bill that created the state community college system in 1963. Irvis passed away in 2006, but his widow, Cathryn L. Edwards Irvis (at center with flowers), was present for the groundbreaking.

significantly over the past several years. For example, CCAC's welding programs have been fully subscribed six days a week – even a special 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. welding course filled up!

It is clear that to students in western

Pennsylvania, CCAC will most certainly remain their post-secondary education choice for years to come.

NRG Energy Center Pittsburgh looks forward to serving CCAC's newest campus addition.

NRG Can Help Save Energy, Money

You can count on NRG Energy Center for reliable, energy-efficient district heating and cooling services. But did you know that we can also help you maximize your building's energy efficiency, save money, improve your ENERGY STAR rating, prepare information for LEED® certification and plan for stricter environmental legislation?

NRG's building energy services are a no-additional-charge benefit for our customers. We have a number of tools and programs available to help you lower thermal and electrical consumption downstream of your meters:

- ENERGY STAR baseline score determination for benchmarking and certification assistance

- LEED Operations & Maintenance consulting, provided by a LEED-accredited professional
- Energy audit assistance
- Energy cost measure prequalification
- Energy performance contract consultation
- Act 129 funding assistance for electrical usage reduction, through our partnership with Duquesne Light

NRG is already pursuing Act 129 funding for our district energy plant and customers. Primarily related to lighting and HVAC improvements, this funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis – so don't miss out!



Contact Del Dausman at (412) 320.2422, del.dausman@nrgenergy.com, for information on how you can benefit from NRG's complimentary services and tap the Act 129 funding program.

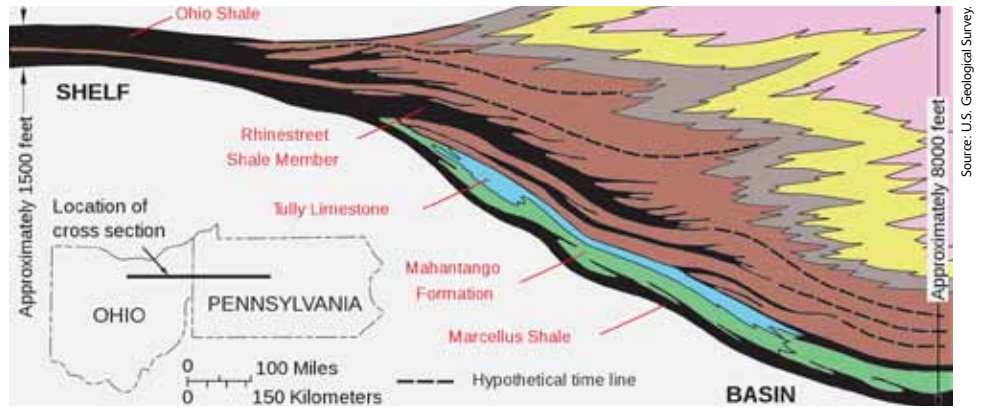
From the GM



The author of a recent *New York Times* op-ed piece regarding the recently passed health care reform legislation opined that “Studies have shown that people

tend to seek out information that is consistent with their views.”

Because my initiation to the natural gas industry was nearly 40 years ago in a time of severe shortage (characterized by broken contracts, curtailments of deliveries, and lawsuits), I find that over the years I have sought out reports, studies and opinions that supported the idea that natural gas, a finite resource, would over time tend toward depletion. Its price, then, would always be subject to upward pressure, even during shorter-term periods of oversupply (e.g., the “gas bubble” of the late 1980s and most of the 1990s). Indeed, that mindset was reinforced when Hurricane Katrina sent gas prices over \$13 per decatherm in fall 2005. With the return of \$13 gas in 2008, and the hundreds of applications for liquefied natural gas terminals off of our coasts, it seemed to be a no-brainer. High – and higher – natural gas prices seemed inevitable.



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Experts have determined that Marcellus Shale in the U.S. could contain significant reserves of recoverable gas, but the projected amounts are still being studied. Here is just a small cross-section showing how the depth of Marcellus Shale can vary depending on the location.

But then along came the “Shale Gale.” Starting in the Southwest and then coming to the Northeast in 2008 with the development of Marcellus Shale, it seemed that technology and higher gas prices were coming together in ways that would more than triple our proven natural gas reserves. Soft gas prices in 2009 didn’t seem to slow this development; instead more and more wells were drilled and the optimism over the potential of shale gas climbed.

Despite some lingering worries concerning increased regulation and restrictions on drilling (over water use and the impact of frac fluids on the environment), I am now discarding

my long-held view of the gas market. The paradigm is shifting. Flat gas prices – even lower than \$4 per decatherm – appear to be in our future. We may even see the return of long-term, fixed-priced contracts, something we haven’t seen since the 1950s. Such contracts, when combined with difficulties in moving the large volumes of gas that seem to be coming from shale gas, could result in the relocation of gas-intensive industries like chemical and fertilizer plants back to the Northeast from the Southwest.

It’s going to be interesting!

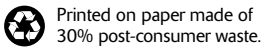
Tim Merrill, General Manager
tim.merrill@nrgenergy.com

Preparing for Summer

Warm weather seemed to come early this year, but it still makes sense to be sure you’re ready for even warmer days ahead. A list of recommended work to be performed on your cooling system is available for download at <http://tinyurl/CoolingChecklist>. If you have questions on the transition to the cooling season, please contact Del Dausman at (412) 320.2422, del.dausman@nrgenergy.com.



Seven Employees Mark 20 Years of Service. NRG Energy Center Pittsburgh is pleased to announce that seven employees this year mark their 20th anniversary with the company. We thank them for their dedication and the service they have provided to our many customers over the years. Each received a Carhartt jacket embroidered with the company logo in appreciation for their service. Back row, left to right: Steve Wellman, Bryan Sarti, Brian Goss and Dennis Cummings. Front row, left to right: Donna Pfeiffer, Richard Boyles and Fran Fulkerson.



At Your Service

Customers probably know them as the guys who rebuild steam traps and troubleshoot building HVAC issues. But the truth is, NRG's distribution crew does



NRG's distribution crew – all NRG employees – has extensive experience with both large and small projects, whether in the street or in customer buildings. No matter the project size, however, a safety mindset is important. Safety meetings are held every week, and safety training is offered every other week.

even more. On any given day they may be conducting preventive maintenance on the steam system, repairing steam condensate lines, putting in new expansion joints, rebuilding regulators and steam traps, welding, rebuilding/replacing vaults and installing new steam and chilled water distribution piping. And that's only the beginning.

The good news is that the crew is actually a part of our own staff – not contracted out. And that means that they have been around the block a few times (literally and figuratively) and know the ins and

outs of the system so they can be sure that steam and chilled water service is as reliable as possible year-round.

Bryan Sarti, who heads up the group, has been with the company 20 years. He's joined fulltime by Andy Matvey, plus Steve Wellman and Fran Fulkerson who also work in the plant. They're especially busy right now as they prepare the steam distribution system for the next heating season. That may seem far away, but it's the perfect time for us to get the work done – when there isn't as much need for steam.

Having our own crew on board to perform the work is cost-effective, since small problems can be caught and fixed early, before they become bigger and more expensive to repair. Plus, the crew is able to ensure a high return of steam condensate and efficient steam trap operation, which save customers and NRG energy and money.