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## Demonstrators say Chesapeake Energy not fulfilling employment promise

*By Bob Evans*  
*FPS reporter*  
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It's not about whether you're a union or non-union worker, it's just about jobs, according to protesters near an oil and gas well site south of Carrollton

More than 30 demonstrators from Local Labor Union 1015 in Canton, Local 809 from Steubenville and non-union workers rallied Wednesday morning across from the "White" gas well on St. Rt. 43 to protest the non-hiring of local construction workers.

"Our whole purpose here is to make the community aware of promises not being met by energy companies when it comes to local jobs emerging out of the shale and gas industry," said Local 1015 Business Manager Curt Mayle. "This is a secret in the closet; companies such as Chesapeake Energy doesn't want it coming to the public's attention."

"We have to bring attention to this pattern of communities losing out on shale gas work so it will not become permanent."

The STI Group, from Buna Texas, won the bid to lay the gathering lines from the well to the main line.

Pete Kenworthy, manager of media relation for Chesapeake said, "one of our priorities when looking to hire contractors for work in Ohio is the use of a local qualified workforce.

"There are other factors like safety performance record, scheduling availability and cost that figures into the equation as well.

"To suggest that we do not hire contractors who use local labor is completely false and companies here in Ohio, both union and non-union, can confirm our practices."

Kenworthy said eight bids requests were sent out and STI, using some local laborers, was awarded the job.

Construction worker Donald Mayle of Malvern, said he just wants to work.

"I have been laid off for over two months now," said Mayle, who has lived in Malvern for over 35 years. "With all this work going on here we are nothing but strangers on the outside looking in."



**Donald Mayle of Malvern was on of the protesters at the "White" well site on St. Rt. 43 this morning.**

According to union officials, there are nearly 9,000 unemployed construction workers in Northeast Ohio who could be doing construction work currently being done by out of state workers.

"We need local jobs for local workers," said Daniel Kurciz, marketing representative of the Laborers District Council of Ohio. "We have nothing against the workers doing the jobs, it's the companies. "Just take a look at the license plates; they are from Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi just to name a few."

The demonstrators received plenty of support from passing traffic with the blowing of horns.

A man, driving a white minivan, added a fist-pump to the horn-blowing. The group rallied in Jefferson County last week near Bergholz.

"Chesapeake officials called law enforcement on us last week" said Clint Powell from Local 809 in Steubenville.

Powell said his members were acting in a civil manner and many were enjoying lunch fresh off the grill as deputies told them they had to leave.

"They seem to forget there is a thing in America called the First Amendment. We intend to exercise this right to call attention to the fact Chesapeake is not living up to their stated obligation of putting local community members to work."

However, local workers will not be scared away.

"We have an obligation to hold these energy companies accountable for the promises they made on local job creation when they arrive in our backyards," said Matt MacLellan, director of organizing for the Ohio Laborers District Council. "When we see construction projects going to out-of-state contractors employing their own out-of-state workforce we'll be there."

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