

Millwrights' Southern Power

Refined Skills Win in Texas

Big projects can produce big opportunities—as for hundreds of millwrights from across the UBC, led by the Southern States Millwright Regional Council (SSMRC), who are finding work at a record-setting refinery expansion in Texas.

Houston-based Motiva Enterprises LLC refines, distributes, and markets oil in the eastern and southern U.S. At the 109-year-old Port Arthur refinery, Motiva's multi-billion-dollar Crude Expansion Project (CEP) is equivalent to building the first new refinery in the U.S. in nearly 40 years.

UBC millwrights have worked on the CEP since groundbreaking in 2007, and exceptional union skills helped keep the project on track. Open-shop workers originally

had the work, but Motiva found installations that were not done properly.

Based on relationships built by SSMRC reps and the solid history of union contractors who did win work there, the UBC team was asked in to restore high standards and productivity.

"This is traditionally a nonunion plant, but we were able to illustrate the skills of our millwrights and the level of training they have to stay at peak performance for this job," said SSMRC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Donahou. "It opened a door, and we took advantage of the opportunity."

"We are commissioning all of the units that the open shops handled, verifying proper installation and fixing any issues that we find," said SSMRC Represent-



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MOTIVA'S MAJOR NUMBERS

Capacity Before CEP	275,000 barrels/day
Capacity After CEP	600,000 barrels/day
Size/Rank After CEP	Among largest in U.S. Top 10 worldwide
Components (partial)	3-unit naphtha complex 1 catalytic reformer 725 pumps 19 compressors 514 heat exchangers 54 tanks
Workforce (highs)	400 contractors 900 company employees 5,000 construction workers
Jobs After CEP	300 permanent full-time

tative Mike Hines. "A majority of the equipment needed to be addressed for one reason or another."

That successful commissioning led to more work, and UBC crews are now doing new construction and many other duties.

Donahou said steady productivity from SSMRC and traveling millwrights will help the union side compete for maintenance work at the refinery. And when the Keystone Pipeline comes into Port Arthur, Donahou aims to capture that work as well.



Skills on a Grand Scale

A historic energy project in the deep South is not only attracting global attention for its size and scope, but is also providing vast amounts of work for a huge number of UBC members.

More than 400 carpenters and 200 millwrights from across the U.S. and Canada are working to upgrade the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in the SW Mississippi town of Port Gibson.

As the state's first and still only such plant, this job—the largest such upgrade in U.S. history—will make 27-year-old Grand Gulf the biggest single-unit nuclear power plant in the country and fifth largest in the world.

So far, the 11-state Southern States Millwright Regional Council has dispatched Millwrights from 28 states, with some in their 20s and 3 members in their 70s. Carpenters hail from 15 states, represented by the Mid-South Regional Council of Carpenters (MSRCC), led by Local 318 in Birmingham, Ala.

Leadership Training Leads the Way
One strategy that helped win the

work was custom foreman training promised to Entergy Nuclear, no stranger to UBC crews, by the team of General President Douglas McCarron, Southern District Vice President Danny Maples, and MSRCC Executive Secretary-Treasurer James Kerley. Two classes of Grand Gulf foremen trained in late 2011 for the project's February 2012 start.

"This training has more than paid off," Kerley said. "We are now providing the leadership and productivity to give our foremen the tools to be successful. Both productivity and safety reports show the value of skilled foremen."

"Being able to man the project was also a big reason in getting this job," added Maples. "We made promises about the quality of our members, and the membership kept those promises by being able to work productively, safely, and with the skills to keep the job on time and on schedule."

By the time Grand Gulf comes back on line in the summer of 2012, UBC members will have logged about 300,000 hours of work. Grand indeed.

