

Lebanon

My name is David Butterworth and I am a Business Agent for Pipeliners Local 798. I would like to speak this evening about the quality, safety and training that Local 798 brings to the table during the construction of pipeline projects such as The Atlantic Sunrise. I represent 6,000 welders, helpers and journeymen who live all over the United States. My jurisdiction runs from Maine to Virginia and there are around 1,000 of our members who live and work in this North East jurisdiction. Local 798 has built most of the major pipelines that run across this nation including the Alaska Pipeline.

I would now like to talk about the quality of work and craftsmanship that Local 798 devotes to these projects. Our welder members must take a qualification test before they are allowed to weld on the pipeline. These qualification welds are destructively tested and if any imperfections found, then that member is not allowed to weld on the pipeline. If a member does pass the qualification test he then has every weld he makes on the job x-rayed and reviewed by a Level III x-ray technician who decides if the weld is acceptable and stands up to 1104 code. In most places if a welder has three or more unacceptable welds he will be removed from that project. With these standards in place, Local 798 welders are held under some of the strictest guidelines in the construction industry and these are standards that we are proud to uphold.

Now onto environmental and safety training. Safety and environmental training is something that Local 798 holds of the utmost importance. Our contractors and the clients we work for have extensive safety and environmental awareness programs that protect our workers and the land we are working on. When these pipelines are built they are built by a collective group that understands that when we build a pipeline we must build it safely with the least amount of environmental impact possible and everything else is secondary to that.

Training, Local 798 is home to one of the most state of the art training facilities in the country. We understand that we must keep up with the most current welding procedures in an ever changing industry. Our facility is equipped with 52 welding booths and state of the art equipment to be used by our membership so they can brush up or learn new skills. The Local 798 training center is a testament to our dedication to providing our members with the best of the best when it comes to training so they can apply the latest technologies when pipelines are built now and in the future.

In closing I would like to say that the purpose of my speech is to show the PA DEP who will be building this pipeline and to assure you that it will be built with highly trained, skilled, safe American workers. I support the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project and hope for swift approval of the permits so the union members I represent can go to work on this project.

Thanks,

David Butterworth

