

## Federal Interagency Council Visits Towanda, PA— The Marcellus Shale

Members of nine agencies involved in the Federal Interagency Council, attended a listening session in Towanda, PA to learn about the economic development opportunities created by the emergence of the Marcellus Shale, natural gas reservoir, and its impact on the region. The Federal Interagency Council is a group of fifteen representatives from federal agencies in the Philadelphia area dedicated to coordinating federal assistance in the region. The Philadelphia Regional Office (PRO) of EDA was represented by Regional Director Willie Taylor, Civil Engineer Dan Gillen, and Management Analyst Fred Killings.

The session was hosted and facilitated by Northern Tier Regional Planning and

Development Commission one of the PRO Economic Development Districts. The subject matter consisted of job creation/ job training, infrastructure, housing, financing, education, business/ investment opportunities as well as the environmental impact on the Northern Tier region.

The highlight of the economic development visit was the gas rig tour that was coordinated by Chesapeake Energy Corporation which is one of the many natural gas drillers in the northern Pennsylvania area. The federal partners got a birds-eye view on the processes of how natural gas is extracted from the bottom of the Marcellus Shale and contained for distribution.



## EDA Presents at The Kansas City Federal Reserve

The EDA's Philadelphia Regional Office was selected to present a current investment at the Kansas City Federal Reserve to demonstrate a successful federal interagency collaboration and cooperation project.

The presentation titled "Collaborations in Rural Communities" was given by Willie Taylor, PRO Regional Director on September 9, 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri. Joining Mr. Taylor was Lenita Jacobs-Simmons, Regional Director of the Department of Labor (DOL)-ETA2, who presented DOL-ETA's role in the EDA funded LindenPointe Technology Innovation and Development Center located in Hermitage, PA. Economic Development Specialist Alma Plummer, who submitted the national competing application to the Kansas City Federal Reserve and earned the opportunity for EDA and DOL-ETA to present, was also in attendance.

"Collaborations are geographic concentrations of competing, complementary or interdependent firms and industries that do business with each other and have common needs for talent, technol-

ogy and infrastructure," said Mr. Taylor. "The rural economy is more economically diverse than it once was. Rural communities will need clusters of economic activity and partners to bolster America's competitiveness in the global marketplace. In addition, it will assist in the region's ability to create new jobs and spur private investment."

The LindenPointe Technology Innovation and Development Center is a prime example of regional collaboration strategically located in the rural Appalachia region of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southeastern Ohio. The City of Hermitage, through the foresight of DOL-ETA2, and the LindenPointe Tech Center was a good fit to EDA investment priorities and mission to partner with distressed communities. EDA had a familiarity with the City of Hermitage based on a previous successful public works investment.

The new facility will provide training opportunities to enhance the emerging semiconductor and electronics clusters, as well as the biomedical and biotechnical clusters in the 115-acre LindenPointe

Innovative Business Campus and surrounding region. Center programs will be developed to meet the identified workforce needs of local businesses and be consistent with existing sustaining industry clusters while enhancing the long-term development of the regional economy.

The OH-PA Interstate region has lost over 2,500 jobs in the past few years and thousands more since the collapse of the western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio steel industry. The Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio are leading this collaborative effort to address the long term effects of the decline in the steel industry through the development of diverse sectors with growth potential and through the development of a well-trained workforce capable of supporting the manpower needs of these growth sectors. The project is an important component in a multi-capital, collaborative partnership to diversify the regional economy through strengthening technology innovation and workforce development.