**PHOTO:** BOB DEACY, Senior Vice President, TVA, gives an overview of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

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Once phase one is complete at the end of 2017, the refinery will have the capacity to process approximately 79,000 barrels per day of bitumen-blend feed stock into approximately 80,000 barrels per day of high-value, high-demand refined products, according to MacGregor.

It makes the most sense to develop clean coal technology and keep “our Boilermakers at work in the United States,” he said. He encouraged those at the conference to keep up the fight. “It’s not over by any means.”

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There is a need for general education on this topic. “No one knows anything about it,” he said. “They need to understand and know it can be done.” In closing he said “we’ve got to mobilize people and the [Boilermakers] are the logical leaders because you’re on every project.”

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Site lead for the Boilermakers, Jim Lindsey from Local 454 (Chattanooga, Tennessee), noted that safety was paramount at Kingston, even though it had not always been a primary focus in the past. “Ten or 20 years ago, if you brought up a safety issue on a job site, you might very well find yourself in the next round of layoffs.”

Not anymore. The contractor paid labor reps to attend a safety meeting every morning. They conducted safety walk-throughs and listened and corrected any issues that were raised. Contractor and TVA management took responsibility to ensure that workers freely exercised their rights and responsibilities, and fully embraced the zero incident and injury principles.

Barker said that the Boilermakers achieved a very significant reduction in the weld rejection rate from previous outages. “With the number of projects and the work performed, this was a landmark event in the history of the Kingston Plant,” he said.

Branscum gives an update on MOST programs

MOST Administrator Dale “Skipper” Branscum provided updates on three MOST programs: The Boilermaker Code, Leadership and Substance Abuse. He said the Leadership Program is one of the most “under-utilized programs available through MOST, with some of the greatest value to all three of our tripartite partners.” The program trains Boilermakers to be effective front-line supervisors. “Whether that’s a foreman, general foreman, craft supervisor, assistant foreman — whatever role of supervision is needed on your job site,” said Branscum.

A recent enhancement to the Substance Abuse Program includes an E-screen option for obtaining an electronic chain of custody for the required annual drug test. Using email and a smartphone allows a Boilermaker to get his chain of custody within a few hours instead of waiting up to five days. It’s also a cost savings to Boilermakers as well as MOST, said Branscum. The Boilermaker Code has been in place for a year and has exceeded expectations, said Branscum. Since the program’s roll-out, 75 percent of all construction lodges have held at least one class, with 2,110 Boilermakers trained. “That was more than anyone expected when we were here a year ago,” said Branscum, noting the numbers are especially impressive given the fact that the training is voluntary. “Numerous owners and contractors have sat in on training, and their feedback is overwhelmingly positive,” he said.

Republican Senator from Montana lambasts EPA

Addressing the conference via Skype, Republican Senator Steve Daines from Montana said he was “shocked and devastated when the [Clean Power Plan].” Montana is one of 27 states attempting to block implementation of the plan. He said President Obama and the EPA bypassed Congress because they knew the plan wouldn’t pass if lawmakers had a vote.

Daines noted that if these regulations are put into effect they will devastate Montana, costing 7,000 mostly union jobs, $145 million in tax revenue and $500 million a year in lost economic activity. They will also cause double-digit increases in utility rates. “The people in this country that can afford it the least are going to get hit the most by these regulations,” he said.

Earlier this year, Daines asked EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy during a Senate subcommittee hearing about a study that showed the impact of the CPP would be .02 degrees centigrade — virtually negligible. McCarthy didn’t disagree. According to Daines, she said the EPA is doing this so that China “will follow our lead.” Daines said clean energy should not be a partisan issue and that both parties need to be focused on jobs and a reliable source of energy.
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Brian Barker, from G-UB-MK Constructors, praised the collaboration efforts. “This was a tremendous tripartite success story,” he said. Barker said that the Boilermakers achieved a very significant reduction in the weld rejection rate from previous outages. “With the number of projects and the work performed, this was a landmark event in the history of the Kingston Plant,” he said.

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31st ANNUAL
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DAY THREE MINUTES | October 5, 2016

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