



VIEW*S*&VISIONS

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The Greatness of Appalachia: The Opportunity on Everyone's Mind

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MATRIC

Steve Hedrick is President & CEO of MATRIC – the Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research & Innovation Center in South Charleston, West Virginia. MATRIC delivers market-driven innovation, research, technical engineering and technology commercialization for the chemical, energy, environmental and advanced software sectors.

Hedrick has more than 20 years of experience in the petrochemical industry as a leader in business, chemical manufacturing and health, safety, environment and quality (HSEQ). He has held numerous roles of increasing responsibility at Bayer CropScience, Bayer MaterialScience, Bayer Polymers and Lyondell, and has led multiple regional and global teams to improve business results and reliability and safety systems. His entry into the chemical industry followed service as an officer in the United States Army.

Hedrick currently serves on several boards of directors, including the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Charleston Area Alliance, Advantage Valley, West Virginia Manufacturers Association, Thomas Health System and West Virginia Regional Technology Park Corporation. He is Chairman of the Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce.

A native of West Virginia, he holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

For a very long time, the greatness of Appalachia was known by only a few. Those who lived here. Those who understood it. Those who believed in it. But today, it's no longer an unknown or underappreciated region. On the contrary, it is on the minds of many across the country... and the world.

The recent announcement of China Energy Investment Corporation's (CEIC) intent to invest \$83.7 billion in the state of West Virginia cannot be overstated. It will be the single largest investment in the state – ever – and we should all be proud and excited about our collective future. We should be grateful to have Woody Thrasher as our Secretary of Commerce and for the wisdom of our Governor to place him on that post. They see the greatness in Appalachia.

CEIC has a systematic and logical strategy to implement significant projects over the next 20 years, including power generation, chemical manufacturing and underground storage of natural gas liquids (NGLs) readily available in the Marcellus, Utica and Rogersville shales.

Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research & Innovation Center

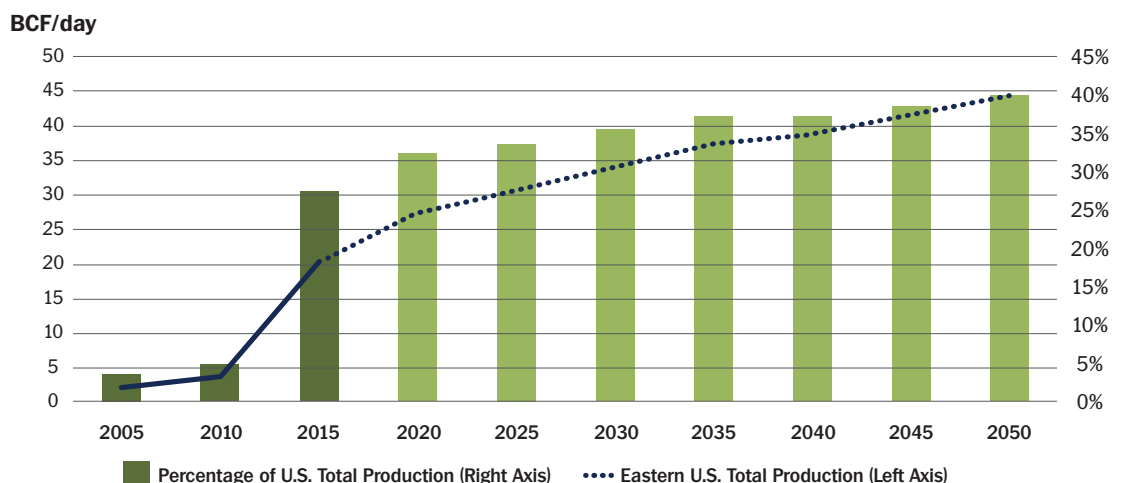


They see the greatness available in Appalachia.

West Virginia's bright future is further validated by the recent invitation for Appalachia Development Group, LLC, to submit a Part II Application for a loan guarantee under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Title XVII Loan Guarantee Program. The invitation is for a \$1.9 billion loan guarantee from the DOE to support the development of infrastructure for the Appalachia Storage & Trading Hub (ASTH) for NGLs. While this is the first of several steps in a long process, it is further proof that opportunities for economic development – including 100,000 jobs – are not out of reach. The DOE sees the greatness of Appalachia.

But it's not just economic development for West Virginia and its neighbors. It is geographic diversification for the heavy manufacturing of the United States. The location of the Marcellus,

Natural Gas Production Outlook in the Eastern United States



Energy Information Administration

**Indirect (Supply-Chain) Jobs Supported by
New Chemical and Plastic Products Manufacturing in the
Appalachian Region by the Appalachian Storage Hub**

Sector	Number of Jobs
Agriculture	1,195
Mining	8,045
Utilities	909
Maintenance & Repair	1,298
Manufacturing	2,693
Durable Manufacturing	1,104
Nondurable Manufacturing	1,590
Trade	6,778
Information	504
Transportation	4,013
Financial Services	2,326
Waste Management and Business Support Services	4,679
Professional & Technical Services	3,791
Management of Companies	3,567
Other Services & Gov't	3,244
Total	43,042

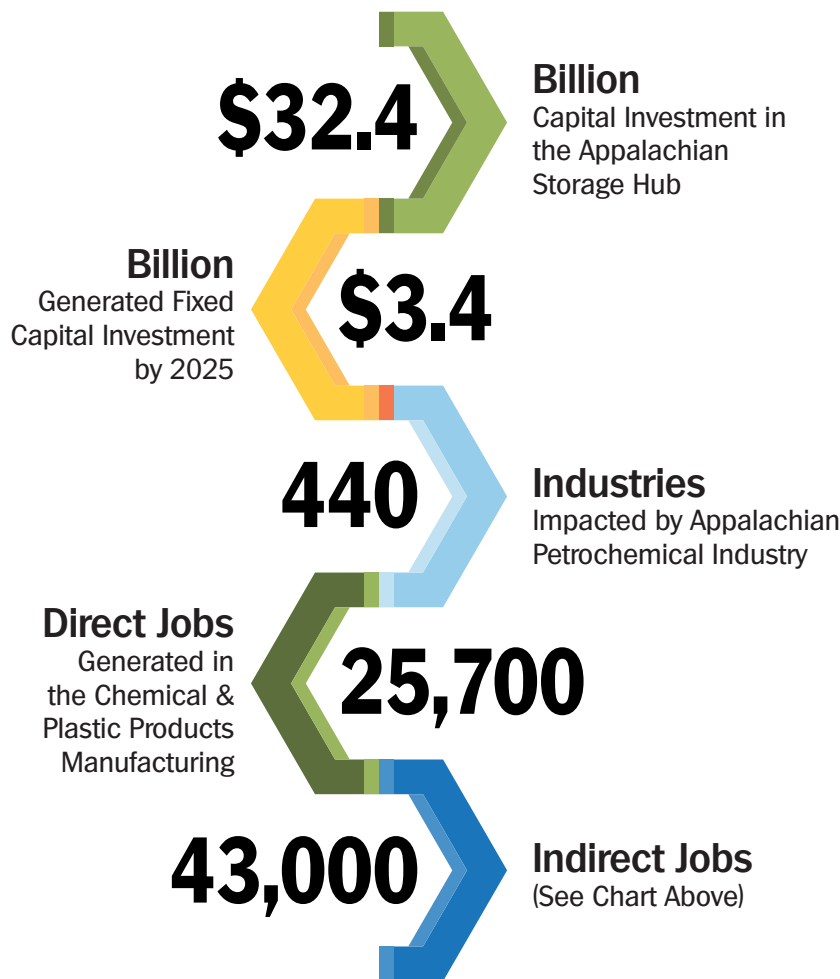
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Utica and Rogersville shales positions this opportunity away from the threat of major natural disasters. Hurricanes threaten the Gulf Coast with regularity; we were reminded of this natural phenomenon last year with Hurricane Harvey. It's clear to all Americans that hurricanes have the power to interrupt productivity of the major extraction and important manufacturing hubs there.

On top of the unimaginable impact on our individual citizens and communities there, Harvey struck a blow to our country's GDP, causing lasting damage to the economy. Not only instantaneous losses, but also lost opportunity that can never be regained. These manufacturing hubs are of vital importance to our nation and must be protected inasmuch as we are able to do so. And our opportunity to establish a hub in Appalachia is a complementary resource to that which exists in the United States Gulf Coast. We see the opportunity for greatness for our nation.

The greatness of Appalachia, her resources, her people – it's a story that is being told far and wide. And, West Virginia, we must realize that it is our time to lead. So, let's share our region with pride and lead into the future.

I've never been more confident in our future and never prouder to be from Appalachia and the great state of West Virginia! 🇺🇸



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