

Pulp truth

Issue 42 • June 27, 2012



Please copy Pulp Truth front and back and distribute it during non-work time using your Communications and Action Teams, steward system or Rapid Response network. Be sure to leave copies in lunchrooms, break rooms, etc. We want to hear what's happening in your workplace. Send your news to Lynne Hancock, editor, at lhancock@usw.org

Continued Tariffs Sought on Imports of School Lined Paper

USW Local 10-1442 members and managers from the ACCO Mead Products plant in Alexandria, Pa., traveled to Washington, D.C. June 12 to observe a U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) hearing for a sunset review of current duty orders on imports of certain lined paper school supplies from China, India and Indonesia.

“Our family-supportive jobs are dependent on continuation of the five-year-old tariffs on imports of the school paper and spiral notebooks that we produce for the U.S. market,” said Local 10-1442 President Mitch Heaton.

“We wanted to be recognized at the hearing before the six commissioners so they understood we are prepared to fight for sustaining our jobs.”

The USW represents 400 paper workers at the ACCO Mead Products converter plant, plus the Roaring Springs Blank Book

Co. in nearby Roaring Springs, Pa., where Local 10-488 members are employed. More than 500 workers are employed in the school lined paper sector.

In 2006, the USITC placed duties on imports of lined paper and notebooks because of dumped and subsidized imports from China, India and Indonesia.

“Several US production facilities closed, production lines shut down, shipments, production and capacity declined, and inventories rose. Our members lost jobs, lost hours, lost overtime, lost wages, and lost benefits,” testified Leeann Foster, assistant to USW President Leo W. Gerard.

She told the USITC the antidumping and countervailing duty orders have worked as intended. She also indicated that other USW members employed at mills supplying paper roll products to ACCO and Rolling Springs would be affected also if the tariffs were lifted.

The USITC will vote on whether to continue or revoke the tariffs on Aug. 1, 2012.

Two Workers Killed, Eight Injured in May On-the-Job Incidents

The first incident occurred May 19, 2012 when four Local 9-1924 workers at Resolute Paper (formerly AbitibiBowater) in Catawba, SC, were critically injured. The USW reported that all four were working with white liquor and sustained burns to the body after a pinch valve failed. Jennifer Myers from the Emergency Response Team is assisting the families, and Steve Sallman from the USW Health, Safety and Environment Department went on site to help the local with the investigation.

An explosion and fire occurred at the Verso Paper Mill in Sartell, Minn., on May 28, 2012 and killed one worker and injured four others. The USW reported that preliminary information indicated there was a fire around the #5 air compressor near the roll-wrap area when an explosion occurred resulting in a warehouse fire.

The worker who was killed was going to extinguish the incipient fire, but was not able to do so because the blast took his life. He left behind a wife and four children. The four injured workers were treated and released from a local hospital.

Emergency Response Team District Coordinator Robert Brown is assisting the families, and Sallman is helping the local union with the investigation.

In the third incident a Local 2-44 member was fatally injured on May 30, 2012 while working at Manistique Paper in Manistique, Mich. The USW reported that preliminary details indicated the worker was driving a forklift and was lifting bales of recycled paper to a conveyor belt. The union said that due to a number of factors the truck tipped over, pinning the worker under the roll cage of the truck and causing fatal head injuries.

The worker was active in her local and was its Women of Steel chair.

Emergency Response Team District Coordinator Suzan Cherrone is assisting the family, and Jim Novak from the Tony Mazzocchi Center is assisting the local with the investigation.

Connect with USW Paper Sector

Email: papersafety@usw.org, uswpaper@usw.org

Website: www.usw.org/paperworkers

Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/unitedsteelworkers

YouTube: www.youtube.com/steelworkers