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OSHA'S NEW SILICA
STANDARDS
P. 6



Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics & Allied Workers, AFL-CIO, CLC
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Bruce R. Smith

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

The old standards applied by OSHA are out of date and fail to provide adequate protection to those exposed to silica. OSHA has finally completed and proposed new silica standards, which will reduce – but not eliminate – illnesses and death from exposure to silica.

OSHA PROPOSES NEW SILICA EXPOSURE LIMITS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) is charged with the responsibility to safeguard the American workplace. With respect to protecting against the health hazards of crystalline silica in the workplace, OSHA has been enforcing a forty year old safety standard for permissible exposure limits (PELs) for silica. Silica is a serious workplace health risk and silica exposure continues to present a health threat to American workers, including members of the GMP working in foundries, glass plants and cement product facilities. Silica exposure can result in silicosis, a lung disease that can be disabling and potentially fatal. Additionally, silica has been classified as a human carcinogen, representing a cancer threat to those working with it.

The old standards applied by OSHA are out of date and fail to provide adequate protection to those exposed to silica. OSHA started working on a new standard for silica exposure in 1974 and its most recent efforts to create new rules started in 1997. OSHA has finally completed and proposed new silica standards. These new standards will reduce – but not eliminate – illnesses and death from exposure to silica.

The proposed new standard substantially reduces the permissible exposure level (from 100ug/m to 50ug/m) and requires employers to reduce silica dust by following a hierarchy of controls, including engineering and workplace practice controls and personal protective equipment where necessary to meet the PEL. The new standard requires regular exposure monitoring and medical exams for workers who are exposed to silica and requires training about the hazards of silica and appropriate control methods.

The GMP supports implementation of the new silica standards. The new standards are feasible and can be accomplished by employing methods to control dust which have been in use for decades. OSHA is currently seeking comments on the proposed rule and public hearings on the proposed rule will be held in March, 2014. I will report the results of the proposed rulemaking process when a final decision on the rule is made.

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of NAFTA, which was only the first in a series of trade agreements that have undermined millions of middle-class American jobs. So it is ironic that this year the supporters of that failed model are bringing forward a fast track trade promotion bill to bring us more of the same: The Baucus-Hatch-Camp “Fast Track” Legislation (S. 1900/H.R. 3830) This “fast track” bill establishes the process by which trade deals, like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), can be submitted to Congress to receive an expedited vote—a process that allows no amendments and limited debate. “Fast track” has given us deals like NAFTA that have led to a U.S. trade deficit of \$540 billion in 2012, millions of lost jobs, and communities devastated in the wake of closed factories and lost economic opportunities.

The GMP opposes the Baucus-Hatch-Camp “Fast Track” bill. Instead of Baucus-Hatch-Camp, workers deserve a better trade policy that ensures that Congress has a fair opportunity to influence trade deals and to send bad trade deals back to the negotiating table for improvement. Since the Baucus-Hatch-Camp bill will only lead to more bad trade deals—like the TPP appears to be—we strongly urge all Members of Congress and Senators to oppose it.

Congratulations!

Vice President IGNACIO DE LA FUENTE Retires after more than 26 years with the GMP



Vice President Ignacio De La Fuente with President Bruce Smith

Vice President De La Fuente started in the trade in 1973 at the Macaulay Foundry in Berkeley, California where he was a member of Local Union 164B and served on the Executive Board in 1977 and as a business manager from 1978 to 1987. In 1987 he was hired as an International Representative by then president James Hatfield. In March of 2001 he was named an Executive Officer at the Mid-Winter board meeting by then President James Rankin. In 2003 President Rankin named him Vice President of Area 3 where he has served for the last 10 years.

In addition to his large involvement with the GMP Vice President De La Fuente has served as the President of the City Council in Oakland, California. He has been a delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council for over 15 years and a board member for almost 10. He is a member of the Oakland Housing Authority, the Alameda County Economic Development Advisory Board, Board of Directors of La Raza Labor Institute in San Francisco, California and a member of the Joint Powers authority for the Alameda County Coliseum.

We wish Vice President De La Fuente a happy and healthy retirement with his wife Elvia and his children for many years to come.

BRENDA SCOTLAND named Vice President of Area 3

President Smith had the honor of swearing in Brenda Scotland as he named her the new Vice President of Area 3. Vice President Scotland was named as International Representative by then President James Rankin in 2000, in 2003 she was appointed as an Executive Officer and in 2006 was named the Director of Organizing by then President John Ryan.

Vice President Scotland entered the trade with Owens-Corning in 1978 where she was a member of Local Union 15 and served in many capacities through the years from President to Shop Steward. Brenda has participated in many labor programs throughout the years to include Summer School at West Virginia University, University of Wisconsin's School of Labor Studies and the George Meany Center.





INDIANA STATE AFL-CIO CONVENTION

In December 373 delegates attended the Indiana State AFL-CIO Convention which was held for three days at the Holiday Inn located in Terre Haute, Indiana. The delegation was comprised of representatives from 148 Local Unions throughout the state of Indiana which represents over 80,000 members. In total with guest the attendance at the convention was approximately 475. The delegation had the honor of electing a new president Brett Voorhies, they re-elected Joe Breedlove to the Recording Secretary position and we are proud to say that Executive Officer Rick Vitaoe was also re-elected as Vice President.



STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT IN THE PICTURE ARE: Terry Corley-Committee-Local 32, Nick Stamper-Committee-Local 127B, Sam Maesch-Vice President-Local 127B, Todd Torrance-Committee-Local 127B, Megan Ellinger-Committee-Local 127B, Rick Vitaoe-Executive Officer & Indiana AFL-CIO-Vice President, Lisa Street-Recording Secretary-Local 96, Ron Johnson-Committee-Local 32, Mike Griffith-Recording Secretary-Local 32, Josh Coleman-Vice President-Local 96, Rick Wayman-President-Local 96.



STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT IN THE PICTURE ARE: Brett Voorhies-President Indiana State AFL-CIO, Rick Vitaoe-Executive Officer & Indiana State AFL-CIO Vice President, Joe Breedlove-Indiana State AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer.



VERALLIA AMD National Apprenticeship Committee Meets

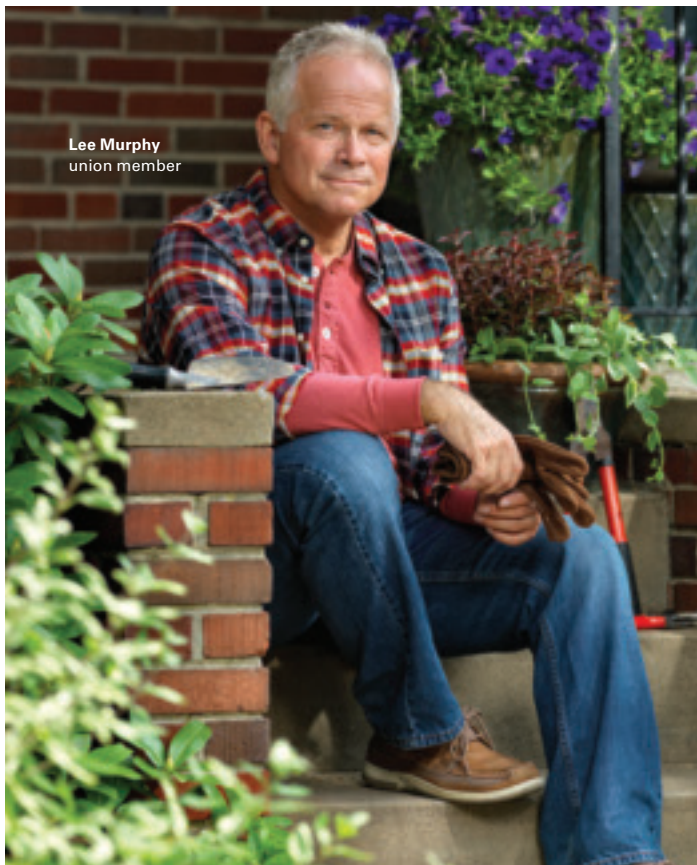
The National Committee Reviewed the progress of the IS operator program and worked on the establishment of a new Machine Repair program. Pictured from Left to Right and Front to Back are:

1ST ROW: Deb Strickland-HR Manager GPS, Tammi Peters-Manager Training & Development, Kelli Hainz-HR Manager Beer SOA, Matt Chodkowski-Director Organizational Development & Effectiveness

2ND ROW: Mike Pile-Supervisor Machine Assembly GPS, Carl Harmon-Pevely Local #30, Mike Harris-HR Manager-FBS SOA, Kevin Lowe-Dunkirk Local#121, Curtis Lehman-Engineer, Forming Technology & Process Improvement

3RD ROW: John Delgado-Department of Labor, Ron Garber-Consultant, Randy Gould-GMP Secretary Treasurer, Tom Jervis-Forming Technologies and Process Improvement Engineer, Todd Graves-GPS Local#38, Derrick Smith-Seattle Local #50, Jamie Navarro-HR Manager Madera

4TH ROW: Stephen Steed-Department Of Labor, Tom McKnight - Director Labor Relations, Kelley Ailstock-Mananager Machine Repair Dunkirk.



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OSHA'S Proposed Crystalline Silica Rule

Workers who inhale very small crystalline silica particles are at increased risk of developing serious silica-related diseases. These tiny particles (known as “respirable” particles) can penetrate deep into workers’ lungs and cause silicosis, an incurable and sometimes fatal lung disease. Crystalline silica exposure also puts workers at risk for developing lung cancer, other potentially debilitating respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease.

To improve worker protection, OSHA is proposing two new crystalline silica standards: one for general industry and maritime, and the other for construction. The proposals are based on extensive review of scientific evidence, current industry consensus standards, and OSHA’s outreach, including stakeholder meetings, conferences, and meetings with employer and employee organizations.

OSHA encourages the public to participate in this rulemaking. Information on submitting comments on the proposed rule and participating

in public hearings can be found at www.osha.gov/silica. Your input will help OSHA develop a final rule that adequately protects workers, is feasible for employers, and is based on the best available evidence.

Why is OSHA proposing a crystalline silica rule?

OSHA’s current permissible exposure limits (PELs) for crystalline silica were adopted in 1971 and have not been updated since that time. They do not adequately protect workers; they are outdated, inconsistent and hard to understand.

Strong evidence shows that current PELs do not adequately protect worker health. The current PELs are based on research from the 1960s and earlier and do not reflect more recent scientific evidence. For example, since the current PELs were adopted, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have all identified respirable crystalline silica as a human carcinogen.

The current PELs are formulas that are difficult for many employers to understand; the PELs for construction and shipyards are based on a method for measuring worker exposures that has not been commonly used for more than 40 years.

The current PELs for construction and shipyard workers allow them to be exposed to risks that are over twice as high as for workers in general industry. The proposed rule would provide consistent levels of protection for workers in all sectors covered by the rule.

What is crystalline silica?

Crystalline silica is a basic component of soil, sand, granite, and many other minerals. Quartz is the most common form of crystalline silica. Cristobalite and tridymite are two other forms of crystalline silica. All three forms may become respirable size particles when workers chip, cut, drill, or grind objects that contain crystalline silica.

For additional information and resources please visit OSHA.gov.

ARDAGH



PLANT TOUR

International Vice President Rickey Hunter recently visited Local Union 234 and toured the Ardagh plant in Warner Robins, Georgia.

TOP RIGHT:

Pictured along with Vice President Hunter and Local Union President David Swain is Local Union member Sheree Bell.

BOTTOM RIGHT:

Pictured are (L-R) Local Union 234 president Davis Swain, Shop Steward Alonzo Green, Business Committee Person Diane Johnson and member Mike Johnson with International Vice President Rickey Hunter.



THE “FREE TRADE AGREEMENT”



25 YEARS
OF FTA LETDOWN

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

on October 4, 1987, the United States of America and Canada concluded negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement. The leaders of both countries, Ronald Reagan for the United States of America and Brian Mulroney for Canada signed the symbolic document on January 2, 1988. The agreement would eliminate the barriers for trade in goods and services between the two countries.

The agreement would create conditions that would make for fair competition within that “Free-trade area, it would “liberalize conditions for investment”, there would be an effective vehicle to resolve the disputes that may arise from time to time over the application of the Agreement and it would also become the founda-

The evolution and expansion of the FTA has left the middle class in both United States and Canada facing extinction.

tion for expansion of the Agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the many others that would follow over the years.

Its implementation would be over a ten year period and the cross-border trade between the USA and Canada would certainly increase. Both leaders were Right-Wing, President Reagan of the Republican Party and Prime Minister Mulroney of the Progressive Conservatives. It needs to be said that this was a Canadian initiative, an initiative that was embraced by the USA. The USA arguably had the most to gain by the FTA.

Opposition in Canada, including the Canadian Labour Movement, to the FTA feared the loss of Canadian Sovereignty, "We will become the 51st State" was another wide-spread fear, trade agreements in place at the time such as the "Auto Pact" would be in Jeopardy and the largest fear was loss of good paying manufacturing jobs to the Southern United States to states that are Right to Work and mostly non-union with low wages.

Massive protests by the Labour Movement in Canada in the capital occurred. Unions and their members banded together to fight to keep good paying jobs and to educate the public on the ramifications of the FTA on Canada.

The result was pretty close to what was feared. Labour said that "It will take time. Maybe twenty years but Canada will lose good paying, full-time jobs and will become a service industry and warehousing economy. People will be working for low wages, with little or no benefits or pensions and working two and three part-time jobs will be common".

As we see the twenty-fifth year anniversary of the FTA come, labour's predictions were pretty close. Trade did definitely increase. The Canadian

dollar in 1990 and 1991 spiked upward. The result was manufacturing in Canada suddenly became significantly more expensive and the mass exodus of manufacturing began. It could be made cheaper in the Southern USA and the removal of tariffs aided the exodus. Job loss in Canadian manufacturing was incredible and the FTA was too blamed.

Then came the mid-1990s and the Canadian dollar fell to unbelievable and never before seen lows. Now it would be the USA's turn and the costs of cheaper produced Canadian products, mostly oil and lumber could be imported into the USA tariff free. Hollywood saw the advantage as well and began filming in Canada more that affected the US film industry and jobs in this sector. Since the Canadian dollar had gone down so much (at times as much about \$0.40 on the \$1.00) manufacturing became attractive once again but if a company returned to Canada they had a clean slate. The collective agreements and union memberships were long gone, now labor in both countries were poised to be harmed.

Now the two men symbolically responsible for the Free Trade Agreement are no longer in power. The election campaigns that followed saw promises from the candidates to "tear up the Free Trade Agreement" in both countries. What we saw were expansions to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the successive others all of which have failed the citizens of both countries. Manufacturing has been hit so hard it probably will not return the levels that once provided workers in both countries with good wages, benefits and pensions.

All that the FTA did was slant the playing field in favor of the corporations and cost the public its quality of living.

The FTA did indeed make the cross-border trade easier. Labor in Canada did say that this was the smoke screen and that big business really was seeking a way of lowering wages and being able to gain their agenda more freely. Companies would be able to re-locate easier and without penalty. The prediction that the Auto Pact would be in jeopardy was true. It was no longer possible once it expired under the FTA. The auto industry was hit particularly hard along with the industries that supplied them; the media depicted the auto sector as greedy, lazy and unproductive. Unionized workplaces and unions became the target of blame as well and all that was wrong in both countries and this continues today even as union saturations continue to fall.

The evolution and expansion of the FTA has left the middle class in both United States and Canada facing extinction. Workers who lost their jobs due to the effects of the FTA struggle in low paying jobs. Workers are happy to have the job they have and are bullied by the corporations of moving abroad if the workers attempt unionize.

Twenty-five years since the Free Trade Agreement was born and that anniversary is called the "Silver Anniversary". The silver is tarnished though and it is stained with job loss and stagnant opportunities for the workers. Corporate greed has taken its toll on the North American Labor Movement. The FTA was billed as a great opportunity for workers and it has been nothing more than a failure. The lives of the citizens of both countries have not been bettered. We likely will not see the day that North America has a strong manufacturing base that truly fuels the economies of both countries.

So with that I wish the Free Trade Agreement a very unhappy anniversary.

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LOCAL UNION 251 CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS



Executive Officer Larry Harris attended Local Union 251's Christmas party and is pictured with those in attendance and individually with Local Union President Alex El Ain (at right).



Steward Training



Director of Research & Education Claude Beaudin conducted Steward Training hosted by Local Union 6 of Ardagh in Salem, New Jersey.

Congratulations to our New Union Officers



LU 127B

Executive Officer Rick Vitaoe had the privilege of swearing in the new officers of Local Union 127B of Gartland Foundry & Prox Company in Terre Haute, Indiana. Pictured are (L-R) Recording Secretary Shelly Moretto, Vice President Sam Maesch, President Doug Stamper, and GMP Executive Officer Rick Vitaoe.



LU 316B

In November GMP Executive Officer Rick Vitaoe swore in the newly elected officers of Local Union 316B of Weil McLain in Michigan City, Indiana. Pictured are Recording Secretary Stanley Human, Vice President Frank Hampel, Financial Secretary Cheryl Cichowlaz, President Dave Glancy and GMP Executive Officer Rick Vitaoe.



LU 65B

New officers of Local Union 65B were sworn in by Executive Officer Larry Harris, pictured are President Jeff Hilburn, Vice President Charles Brown, Financial Secretary Brian Burgess and Recording Secretary Lance Parker.



LU 214

Executive Officer Larry Harris had the honor of swearing in the new officers of Local Union 214, pictured with Executive Officer Harris are President Whitt Satterfield, Recording Secretary Chris Blaisdell, Financial Secretary Chad Brown and Vice President Kris Tuttle.



LU 52

Executive Officer Carter recently swore in the officers of Local Union 52 of Owens Corning in Santa Clara, California. Pictured are (L-R) Local Union President Ed Ireland, GMP Executive Officer Butch Carter, Local Union Vice President Robert Vega, Local Union Financial Secretary Don Reed and Local Union Recording Secretary Gene Robinson.



LU 70

The officers of Local Union 70 of Gerresheimer Glass in Chicago Heights, Illinois were recently sworn in by International Representative Tom Gallager. Pictured (L-R) with GMP International Representative Gallager are President Mike Stout, Financial Secretary Susan Johnson, Vice President Mark Robertson and Recording Secretary James Baughman.



LU 141

Local Union 141 officers of Owens Illinois in Oakland, California recently were sworn in by GMP Executive Officer Butch Carter. Pictured are Recording Secretary Melanie Pulu, Financial Secretary Lisa Harris, Vice President JoAnn Davis and President Mario Rivera.

JUST ARRIVED!



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