

# April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## C.A.T. Distribution #22

The last thing I thought I'd be doing today is writing a CAT report. We're into alligators up to our ass as we prepare for the final scheduled day of negotiations, but with the stinking rumor mill running full bore and the news of yet another market related down, this time in E1, I felt I needed to get something out to try to calm down the work force.

**Rumor #1:** We are shutting down for the entire month of July. That's not true (yet). I contacted Mike Entz and he said there are currently no plans for additional down time in Escanaba for the month of July. I know the rumors are going around about truck drivers not having orders for this month or vendors being told they can't come into the mill in July. All I can tell you is what I know for fact and I can only base that on what Entz told me. What will actually happen in July: Will be clear only when July gets here, until then it is totally out of our control.

**Rumor #2:** The committee walked out of negotiations last Tuesday: That's not true. Don't get me wrong, things got a little loud and I think it's pretty fair to say everyone left the table pissed off but no one walked out on the other party.

**Rumor #3:** The company shut down #1 mill (for next week) because negotiations are going so bad, just to "show us". That's not true. Market conditions dictated the closing of #1 mill. Mike Entz told us last week that there will no longer be any paper produced that will go into inventory. If the paper isn't sold, the machine won't run. Warehouses throughout the entire United States are filled to capacity with paper. Even though every paper company is taking paper out of the system, we are still 1.3 million tons long which means we are producing 1.3 million tons of paper in the world more than we are using. It would be fair to think we will see more of these last minute down time announcements until things turn around in the paper industry.

**Rumor #4:** A foreman stole some of our stickers and window posters as well as some confidential information all contained in a manila envelope. That's true. You must understand; that material belonged to us and this guy had no business stealing it off the table in the Hough shack. I appreciate the guys from the Woodyard calling me as soon as this happened. A simple call to HR corrected the situation.....to a point. The stickers and the window posters were soon returned BUT the confidential information contained inside is missing. The foreman claims he never saw it. He said he brought the envelope directly to John Bastian's office. John Bastian said he simply glanced in the envelope but he didn't see anything like that in there. The fact of the matter is the material is still missing; I just need to find out if it got into the hands of those it was intended for or if it's sitting on the desk of a salaried person. Obviously I'll be working on that but I do want to remind everyone when you get these stickers, please don't put them on company property. You can display them on your person or on anything you own such as lunch pails, back packs, etc.

That pretty much takes care of the rumors, at least the biggest ones. You haven't received a CAT report lately mainly because there hasn't been a heck of a lot to report from negotiations. We did make a little progress on things like supplemental insurance and the pooling of our health insurance plans but nothing was finalized, so sending out a CAT report seemed unnecessary. Maybe I should have put something out as sometimes no news is news in itself.

We are meeting with the company again tomorrow but as bad as things went on Tuesday, I can't imagine Friday going any better. That is the last scheduled date we have. There will be a CAT report on Monday bringing everyone up to speed.

In Solidarity,



Bryon Branstrom