

5th Round

Augustst 8th 2008

C.A.T. Contract Distribution #5

On Thursday August 7, 2008 we met and discussed several issues, most of these issues were focused on our sub-group meetings that were held in early June. Three TA's were accomplished.

UP1 – Change language from Pace (Preamble)

We agreed on the changes to the preamble that refers to the company as NewPage instead of MeadWestvaco and the union as the USW instead of PACE. It also has a line that states, "Local 2-21 acknowledges that it is bound by all provisions of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, Article 8, the No-Strike Clause."

CP19 – Housekeeping (Job classification Maintenance Department)

With the acceptance of multi craft in the maintenance department, this language had to be cleaned up to reflect everyone as mechanics instead of as individual trades as in the previous contract.

UP20 – Workers Compensation Committee

This agreement will entitle us to have 3 workers comp people from the hourly side, to join 3 salaried folks, to form a committee to strictly deal with comp issues on a monthly basis or more frequently if needed.

I feel this is a big deal as it seems we have many challenges with most comp cases. Having a group of our peers assisting with each step of the procedure should help keep our members informed of how their claim is progressing as well as well as to be able to explain why certain things happen as they do.

The day was busy trying to catch up from where we left off 6 weeks ago. Besides the TA's listed above, we had a lot of discussion pertaining to safety language that we are trying to reach a common ground on.

We also discussed the bark hauling issue. The bark hauling proposal will be voted on by the department to see if they want to simply accept it now or wait until the contract is ratified. If the department accepts it now, the company will remove it from their agenda. Tomorrow, August 8th, will be used to conduct our 3rd step grievances which are way over due. Schedules are pretty tight for the rest of the summer with the next round of negotiations possibly not happening until October. In fact it probably won't happen until at least the middle of October. Thanks for all the support being expressed and the constant display of solidarity.