

# USWA LOCAL 5429 HANDOUT

## MARCH 2005

Since the last handout there have been a lot of changes. The number one thing being less than half of us are still actively working in the plant, we peaked at 760 and now we are at 338. We are down to mainly one shift, and the second shift will end up with approximately 55 jobs all on State Street. Through the layoff/realignment procedure we ended up with 23 Utility Operators which is now down to eight to get permanent jobs.

With our new medical plan administrator RMSCO we have had some difficulties / inconveniences but overall it seems to be smoothing out. If you have any problems we need to be informed so the situations can be addressed.

Everyone should have received a new contract book if you did not receive one let us know. With the amount of language changes and with the layoffs in September and January is why it took so long for us to receive them. One of the main language changes is on Temporary Transfers. If you are being forced to move out of your classification you need to keep track and remember more than four hours constitutes one day. If you volunteer to move this does not count towards the 60 days transferred in production or the 120 days total production / shipping time, so you can exercise your Plant Seniority to select another job, you must be forced for this time to count.

We are in disagreement with the Company at this time, over the language on who attends the Step B and Step C Grievance meetings. It was never the Union Negotiating Committee's intent to force people to attend these meetings. Our intent was that if you wanted to attend to witness the procedure you would be allowed to do so. It was never our intent that the grievant would be treated as a witness in this part of the procedure either. We never would want this to change or intimidate someone from using the grievance process. So unless there is a change on the Company's position on this matter everyone should plan on attending these meetings. If you have any questions or concerns on this please ask your steward or one of us and remember you

will not be treated as a witness in these steps as you will have the Grievance Committee there to represent and to speak for you on your behalf.

We are in the process of addressing the finding of Mold under the wood floor blocks in the Department 6 Wheel Haft area. The blocks have been removed and the floor will be concrete by the end of the week. We are also going to have the suspected mold analyzed to see which type it is; there will be a follow up on this information as soon as we find out more.

The Joint Ergonomic Committee has come up with a job evaluation process to define certain harmful movements involved in our daily work environments, this will be very useful to help eliminate a lot of our job illness and injuries caused by such motions, so please if you are asked to fill out a evaluation form, try to be as honest as possible with the understanding this isn't something to use against you but rather something to help us all. This will be starting within Department #5 this week.

Next week is our Annual Maintenance shutdown. There has been a lot of questions on signing up for unemployment / waiting week etc. there is too many scenarios to cover so what everyone should do is either call the NY state Department of Labor at 888-209-8124 remember Monday and Tuesday are the worst days to call, you can call any day during the week or register on line at ( [www.labor.state.ny.us](http://www.labor.state.ny.us) ) it is recommended for everyone to register as no one knows what the future might be.

IN SOLIDARITY:

ROGER, JJ, LOU, PHIL AND LEO JR.

REMEMBER OUR WEBSITE !!!!

USWALOCAL5429.COM