

GUEST EDITOR

*Guest Commentary Chris Hernandez
President Northwestern Indiana Building Trades Council*

What a difference a few months makes. Up until November of 2008, we had more work than we could handle, with no end in sight. Four months later the bottom falls out and we are not sure when or where the next outages will be. At our monthly Tri-Partite Meetings with Arcelor Mittal, all of the ongoing mill maintenance continues to be done by the “in house” work force. At this point, Arcelor Mittal does not expect steel orders for the automotive and appliance industry to pick up until the 3rd quarter of 2009. Mittal has to put 400 plus of their own employees back to work, before outside contractors can be called back into these locations for any and all maintenance.

Every couple of months I meet with US Steel to go over their shut down and outage type work. At this point, US Steel Gary Works is in desperate need of outside contracting. Failure of their own mill employees to winterize and isolate several of the blast furnaces properly had erupted into an emergency outage on # 8 Blast Furnace back in early April. Numerous mechanical maintenance jobs have been back logged as the mill hands cannot keep up, refuse to do the work because it is too high, hot or dirty, or in most cases not qualified to perform the every day job of a Building Trades person.

In our latest meeting with BP, for those of you who have not heard or do not want to believe the numerous rumors that had been circulating all spring, BP Whiting has been ordered to cut \$ 200 million out of their maintenance budget for this year, due to the continued struggle with the US economy and the fact the price of oil was down. For the remainder of this year the OCC Project (Operation Canadian Crude) concrete and civil work will continue with some mechanical work but on a drastically scaled back schedule. Also being scaled back is the amount of personnel that Fluor, Jacobs and Foster Wheeler currently have on site.

BP is committed to going ahead with the OCC Project, but at this time the project is approximately 8-10 weeks behind the proposed schedule presented last summer to the building trades. To date BP has spent \$ 1 billion on a project that is 68% complete on engineering with all of the major vessels, drums, towers and exchangers ordered and sitting on site in various lay down areas around the refinery. Approximately 80% of the pipe rack modules and large bore fabrication are in route or in the process of being fabricated and shipped from all parts of the world.

To date, BP has reported that Fluor will direct hire for the #12 Pipe Still, the Gas Oil Hydro Treater (GOHT) and Outside Battery Limits (OSBL). Fluor is still negotiating with local contractors to help support one or more of these three projects.

Jacobs Engineering has the contract and design technology purchase order to perform the work on the Sulfur Recovery Units, with local contractors looking to support the Jacobs work force. Foster Wheeler has the contract and design technology purchase order to perform work on the Coker Units. At the present time, F/W is not looking to self perform on site work, sub contracting out all building trades craft work to local contractors.

As of June 22, 2009, the proposed 4-10 addendum attachment "A" to the National Maintenance Agreement has been approved and is in full force at BP's Whiting refinery. After months of consideration and input from all of the business managers representing 14 international unions, I feel I have assembled the best deal for the affiliates represented by the Northwest Indiana Building and Construction Trade Council.

HALVORSON RESOLUTION PROMOTES INSULATION USE

Insulators have a new friend in Congress. Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson, a Democrat from Chicago's southwest suburbs, recently introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to raise awareness about the benefits of mechanical insulation. Halvorson was first elected to Congress last November, having served as the Illinois State Senate Majority Leader before advancing to her new position.

Halvorson's resolution (H. Res. 389) encourages energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly building certification programs, such as the US Green Building Council's LEED program, to incorporate the use of mechanical insulation as part of their standards and rating system. With Washington focused on carbon emissions and energy efficiency, Halvorson's resolution hopes to raise awareness of one of the original "green technologies," mechanical insulation.

As her resolution notes, buildings are responsible for 40 percent of United States energy demand and 40 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. "This is not just about becoming more energy efficient – it's about creating quality jobs in an important industry that can't be shipped overseas," said Halvorson. Halvorson's resolution also cites the cost savings and safety benefits that mechanical insulation can bring to businesses and consumers. "With all of us so focused on emissions and "green" building practices, we can't overlook something as simple, but important, as mechanical insulation," said Halvorson. Her resolution is now in the House's Energy and Commerce Committee for consideration.

This isn't the only piece of legislation Halvorson is supporting to help working families. Halvorson is also an original co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act to help give more working men and women the opportunity to form unions and negotiate for better wages, health care and working conditions.

Insulators can be proud of this type of representation in Congress. As a freshman, Halvorson is expected to have a difficult race. You can support her campaign by going to <http://www.debbiehalvorson.com/> to donate or sign up to volunteer.

RETIREES

Local 17 would like to honor these recent retirees. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Edward Crowe, Jr.	R# 32213	04-01-09
Dennis Hill	R# 40738	04-01-09
Donald Hubert	R# 40740	04-01-09
James McDonough	R# 37224	04-01-09
Paul McGrath	R# 37226	04-01-09
Harry Bailey	R# 43823	05-01-09
George Herrejon	R# 45076	05-01-09
Richard Yost	R# 51453	05-01-09
Michael Gallagher	R# 37180	06-01-09

International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers teams up with NIA

The National Insulation Association (NIA), in conjunction with its Foundation for Education, Training, and Industry Advancement, announced that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers to work together on the Mechanical Insulation Marketing Initiative (MIMI). MIMI's goals include: obtain federal funding for educational and awareness programs and tax incentives related to increasing the use and maintenance of mechanical insulation for energy efficiency/conservation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the industrial and commercial industry segments, creating or preserving industry jobs and increasing the professionalism of the mechanical insulation industry. Local 17 couldn't be happier that Terry Lynch has been assigned to oversee this venture.

While on the subject of Energy Efficiency, here is a link to "Sustainable Chicago" where you will find an article by Brian Glynn and one of our current ads by Bob McGuckin and our Organizing/Marketing Committee:

<http://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=2487&l=1>

LETTER CAMPAIGN

Local 17 was overwhelmed with our members and retirees help with our letter writing campaign to our Public Officials. We could hardly keep up with response we received by fax, email, snail mail, and in person. Local 17 wrote letters to both Governors of Illinois & Indiana as well as the heads of each state's Energy Programs. We also wrote letters to all 4 US Senators as well as the congressmen & women in our jurisdiction (17 in all). Terry Lynch said "Local 17 members can be proud of the part they played in conveying this message to Capital Hill".

Al Rexroat has told us “Many of the political representatives are finally getting more familiar with “Mechanical Insulation” versus Building Envelope insulation. Prior to this campaign they didn’t know the difference between the two or how powerful an effect mechanical insulation has on our environment”. Everyone realizes this is not the time to become complacent – It’s time for a full court press. As of this writing we sent close to 3,000 signed letters locally and to Washington, DC.

DECEASED MEMBERS

These members have served Local 17 well. Our Local will remember them for eternity.

Michael Croke	R# 42053	03-31-09
Ramon Hansen	R# 23176	03-31-09
Charles F. Lavin	R# 46152	04-07-09

BITS & PIECES

The **Annual Euchre Tournament will once again be held at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 12, 2009** at the Walker-Danforth VFW at 300 Vinser Street, Washington, IL 61571. We look forward to seeing everyone out there.

There will be a **Downstate Informational Union Meeting held on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at the Peoria Labor Temple. Starting time will be 7:00 P.M. This will be the only notification for this meeting, please help pass the word to fellow members.**

Our “Family Night” Union Meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. It will be held at I.B.E.W. Local 176 West Banquets (Electricians Union Hall) located at 1100 North East Frontage Rd., Joliet, IL 60431. Refreshments & food will be served afterwards.

A reminder for those golfers to contact **John Crinion** to get your names in for the **Annual Local 17 Golf Outing on August 8, 2009** at Green Garden Country Club.

New Mechanics, New Retirees and the Classes of 1974 and 1979 mark your calendars for the **Local 17 Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the Doubletree Guest Suites & Conference Center at 2111 Butterfield Rd., in Downers Grove, IL.** You will be receiving correspondence in the mail with all the details as the date draws closer.

Thanks to all of our members who attended the WCPT Union Talk Show Radio Program. Local 17 helped sponsor the show and **Brian Glynn** was one of the guests on the panel with Dick Kaye and Ed Schultze

Editors,

B. Glynn, J. Crinion, D. Byrne, M. Foster, T. Keane, Donna