

Pulp truth

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Please copy Pulp Truth front and back and distribute it during non-work time using your Contract Action Teams, steward system or Rapid Response network. Be sure to leave copies in lunchrooms, break rooms, etc. We want to hear what's happening in your workplace. Send your news to lbaker@usw.org

Contracts Reopening in April

At the beginning of every month we will list the contracts that are reopening for that month. If your local is in bargaining and is not listed, please contact Lynne Baker at lbaker@usw.org to have your contract listed.

Duro Bag Mfg Corp, Jackson, TN, April 1
Mohawk Paper Mills, Cohoes, NY, April 1
Pope & Talbot, Halsey, OR, April 1
Burrows Paper Co., Lyons Falls, NY, April 1
Cellu Tissue Corp., Neenah, WI, April 2
Domtar, Rothschild, WI, April 2
Georgia-Pacific, Palatka, FL, Local 1717, April 2
Georgia-Pacific, Palatka, FL, Local 9-30, April 2

Green Bay Packaging, Franklin Park, IL, April 2
NewPage Corporation, Escanaba, MI, April 2
Smurfit-Stone Cont., Fernandina Beach, FL, April 2
Smurfit-Stone Cont., Milwaukee, WI, April 2
Caraustar Industries, Lafayette, IN, April 9
International Paper, Courtland, AL, Local 9-193, April 16
International Paper, Courtland, AL, Local 1161, April 16
International Paper, Courtland, AL, Local 1137, April 16
Graham Packaging, Levittown, PA, April 18
Georgia-Pacific, Huntsville, AL, April 21
Genesee Pkg (Plt.#30), Flint, MI, April 22
Menasha Corp., Latrobe, PA, April 22



IP Converter Deal Gets Unanimous Endorsement

IP converter locals met April 2 in Cincinnati to review the master agreement negotiated between IP and our union, and voted unanimously to take it back to the membership for a vote.

“The unanimous support of the tentative accord with IP and USW converting facilities says a lot about the amount of progress that we continue to make in bargaining in the paper industry, and underscores the importance of local union activism and unity,” said USW International Vice President Jon Geenen who is responsible for national paper bargaining.

The 32 IP converter locals have until midnight April 20 to vote. A majority of the members voting is needed to accept the offer.

This package includes significant pension increases and significantly improves previous wage offers.

Besides covering pension, wage and health care issues, the master agreement addresses a number of job security provisions. Local issues and non-economic bargaining will be addressed in local union negotiations.

The IP converter locals had a direct role in negotiations for a master agreement. They developed our union’s basic bargaining agenda at meetings a year ago.

“The tentative deal that our union has reached with IP enhances the security of USW members and provides significant economic gains as well,” said USW International President Leo W. Gerard. “The fact that our local union leaders have unanimously endorsed the deal speaks volumes about the benefits and importance of coordinating our efforts in an increasingly global environment.”

Communications training boosts skills

A group of local union communicators recently spent two days at International headquarters in Pittsburgh, working with the USW Communications staff in polishing their writing skills, producing leaflets, newsletters and press releases and learning of ways to approach the news media to get the union's story to the general public.

Upon returning to their locals, the activists are expected to step up their communications with the membership; work toward creating a communications network among different locals within the same company; and become part of a paper industry-wide informa-

tion network that will help facilitate and coordinate bargaining.

Members involved in the training include: Leonard Gresham, Riegelwood, N.C.; Archie Lee, Evans, Ga.; William Altman, Georgetown, S.C.; Tom Stensberg, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; Dale Lovett, Kevil, Ky.; William Chapman, Oshkosh, Wis.; Sherry Strub, Nekoosa, Wis.; Gary Frassetto, Kimberly, Wis.; Kevin Kesterson, Locksburg, Ark.; Ron Hemingway, Dixfield, Maine.; John Hatcher, Enfield, Conn.; Norb Gossens, New London, Wis. and Joe Benedetto, Uhrichsville, Ohio.



Commerce Dept. Rules Chinese Thermal Paper is Subsidized

The U.S. Dept. of Commerce determined that lightweight thermal paper from China received subsidies ranging from .57% to 59.50%. Now the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will have to collect a cash deposit or bond from Chinese lightweight thermal producers based on these preliminary subsidy rates.

A final determination from Commerce will be made on or about July 21, 2008. If the department makes an affirmative determination, then the case goes before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) again for its final determination. If both Commerce and the ITC determine that Chinese imports have materially injured or threatened material injury to the US domestic industry, Commerce will issue on Sept. 11, 2008 countervailing duties to offset the subsidies received by the Chinese producers.

Commerce will make a determination in May about

whether or not the Chinese and Germans are dumping lightweight thermal paper in the U.S. market.

Appleton Papers, Inc. initiated the investigation into the Chinese subsidies and alleged Chinese and German dumping by filing petitions with the Dept. of Commerce and ITC.

The case affects 1,780 of our members who work at Appleton facilities in Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania as well as 115 workers employed by Kanzaki Specialty Papers Co. in Springfield, Mass.

Rick Bahr from Local 2-469 at the 900-worker Appleton mill in Wisconsin said the future of his mill and the other Appleton facilities hinges upon the remaining U.S. investigation process and rulings that uphold the Commerce Dept.'s findings.

Lightweight thermal paper is used for point-of-sale retail receipts and coupons.



The China Factor

China's appetite for US recovered paper continues to grow as it brings on board more capacity. The U.S. supplies half the recovered paper imports in China. This has caused prices for recovered paper to rise and made it more expensive for U.S. mills to obtain fiber. To remain competitive with China, SCA Tissue will spend \$23 million at its Menasha, Wisc., recycled tissue paper mill for a new drum pulper that is expected to reduce energy costs. The company will also make deinking line improvements so the mill can run lower-grade recovered paper.

Chinese interest is growing for U.S. deinking materials, and U.S. recycled content tissue and deinked pulp mills are taking notice.

Chinese paper and board exports to the U.S. totaled almost 325,000 tonnes in the first three quarters last year, up 5%, compared with imports through the first three quarters in 2006. Eighty percent of the imports were most-

ly coated freesheet and coated mechanical papers. The major growth in Chinese imports last year was in tissue. The U.S. imported 20,371 tonnes of tissue paper through September 2007, up 62%, and 97,300 tonnes of converted tissue and sanitary products, up 45%.

China is expected to surpass the U.S. for the first time in paper and board capacity in 2010. When these large new mills start up, Chinese papermakers will export surplus tonnage while waiting for domestic demand to grow to meet capacity.

One paper industry trade association executive says that "even if China does not become a major net exporter, papermakers in the U.S. and Europe still might have to worry about competition from Chinese companies. The Chinese are giving more consideration to acquiring mills in these regions, something like the approach Toyota and Honda have taken to automobile production."