

28 August 2014

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End the lock-out at Honeywell Operation in Metropolis, Illinois

Mr. Cote,

This letter of protest to you is sent on behalf of Oil Chemical Rubber Workers' Union of Turkey (Petrol-Is), representing 32.000 members in energy, chemical, rubber pharmaceutical and plastic industries. We are annoyed to hear of your company's irresponsible corporate decision lockout the United Steelworkers Local 7-669 members at the Honeywell uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois.

The lockout is putting workers and local communities at risk. As you know, the facility converts milled uranium, known as yellowcake uranium, into uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) that is used in nuclear fuel enrichment. The potentially dangerous process requires the experience and knowledge of the now locked out members of the United Steelworkers. During the last lock-out, there were two near-miss tragedies due to mishandling of dangerous chemicals, and management was cited by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for helping replacement scab workers to cheat on exams that ultimately allowed them to operate the facility.

We see that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has stepped up its safety inspections, as the facility is a much greater risk with the skilled workers blocked from the workplace by disgraceful bargaining of the management. The union is ready to bargain in good faith and get back to work, but instead the management bargaining committee refuses to change proposals including to eliminate 31 jobs.

News of this misbehavior sends a very damaging message to energy workers around the world. We expect an urgent reversal of corporate strategy by Honeywell at Metropolis, Illinois. Industrial relations there need repairing that begins with good faith bargaining from management and respect shown to the USW members, in line with all international labour standards.

Sincerely,

General Secretary

Ali Ufuk Yaşar

CC: Mr. Leo Gerard, International President, USW
Jyrki Raina, General Secretary, IndustriALL Global Union