

Pulp truth

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Please copy Pulp Truth front and back and distribute it during non-work time using your Communications and 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

Paper Safety Video Now Posted to Paper Website

Go to www.usw.org/paperworkers to listen to the paper safety video, *Uncover the Hazards, Don't Paper Them Over*. The five-minute video talks about the paper safety survey and how our union will be addressing the problems uncovered in the survey. It's an important video for paper workers to watch.

You can also watch the video at www.youtube.com/steelworkers.

If you haven't seen the survey results, you can get a copy of the report by contacting the USW Health, Safety and Environment department at (412) 562-2581 or email them at safety@usw.org.

5 Ways to Connect with USW Paper Sector

Pulp Truth: If you're not receiving these newsletters, please send your home email address to uswpaper@usw.org and we will put you on the email mailing list. *Pulp Truth* focuses on our paper safety campaign and news within the paper industry and our paper locals.

Get on E-Mail Paper & Paper Safety Contact Lists:

Send your home email address to uswpaper@usw.org and papersafety@usw.org

Paper Website: At www.usw.org/paperworkers you will find information about our paper safety campaign;

news and information about our union's pulp, paper and forestry sectors; and topics such as bargaining and trade. Current and back issues of *Pulp Truth*, *IP Council News*, *GP Council News*, and *Out Front This Week* are posted. Paper videos and paper worker photos are also on the site.

Flickr: Check out photos USW members have sent in of their union activities. There are three sets of photos in the paper workers collection. Go to www.flickr.com/photos/unitedsteelworkers

YouTube: www.youtube.com/steelworkers

EPA's Boiler MACT Rule Impacts Paper Mills

Last year, after the USW and industry groups raised concerns about the negative impact a proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation would have on our members' jobs and industries, the agency agreed to revamp its rules.

Called the Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) regulation, the rules limit the emissions of hazardous air pollutants, like mercury and hydrogen fluoride, from industrial, commercial and institutional boilers. The standard impacts paper mills in addition to oil refineries, chemical plants and other factories.

After lobbying by the USW and industry, the EPA requested an 18-month extension last December to seek more input from stakeholders and more concrete information from affected employers so a final regulation could be crafted that worked for American workers and

all USW industries. The agency said its final standard would be significantly different than what it proposed in April 2010.

But then a federal court ruled January 20 that the EPA had 30 days to finalize its MACT regulation.

EPA finalized the regulation Feb. 23 and said it believed the final rules represented the best available science and data, although it immediately initiated a reconsideration process due to the court's time frame and will seek additional public review and comment.

Requirements Eased for Mills

The final rules ease pollution-control requirements for large boilers that burn certain types of fuels and on small ones that the agency says don't account for a significant portion of toxic emissions. The EPA cut the overall estimated cost of complying with its proposed

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curbs on mercury, soot and lead emissions to \$2.1 billion a year from \$3.9 billion.

The USW's lobbying had a positive impact for the paper industry. Among the changes from the EPA's earlier proposal, the agency decided that many large boilers fueled by wood or other "biomass" didn't emit significant levels of acid gases and thus wouldn't need to be outfitted with costly pollution controls as originally proposed. They will be required to install equipment that captures soot, but won't have to add expensive scrubbers. That's because biomass plants don't emit large amounts of hazardous materials like mercury that scrubbers are designed to collect.

The lobbying also prompted the EPA to use substantial new data that resulted in more achievable emissions limits. By instituting a work practice standard for start-up and shutdown situations, the EPA exempted boilers in those situations from the emissions limits. The agency will excuse companies whose boilers exceed emissions limits because of malfunction.

Other Positive Changes

The EPA combined all solid fuel boilers, including coal and biomass, into a single category for particulate

matter, hydrochloric acid and mercury, resulting in substantially more manageable emissions limits for biomass boilers. The agency revised its definition of mixed-fuel boilers in ways that will not unduly penalize mixed-fuel boilers that use biomass. Many biomass boilers that use process gas as fuel will not be subject to emissions limits. There are more lenient dioxin/furan limits for most types of boilers, including biomass boilers. Plus, the agency limited the reporting requirement for dioxin/furan pollutants to a one-time demonstration of compliance.

EPA said it also is requiring all biomass-fired area source boilers to implement a tune-up program as a management practice.

The EPA said the rules would prevent 2,600 to 6,600 premature deaths per year by 2014, the deadline for companies to bring their operations into compliance. It also would avert 4,100 heart attacks and 42,000 asthma attacks annually. These health protections will save between \$23 billion and \$56 billion in health-related costs.

The EPA also said the new regulation is expected to generate 2,200 permanent jobs, not including making or installing pollution controls.

Three Regional Health & Safety Conferences To Be Held

The USW Health, Safety and Environment department is holding three regional conferences in 2011 which will be in Pittsburgh May 15-20, Atlanta September 11-17 and Phoenix, Arizona September 25-30.

The local union health, safety and environment committee chairperson, full-time representatives and committee members are encouraged to attend. The conference is also open to all local union members and invited management counterparts.

There will be a union-only plenary session on Monday and extended training programs Tuesday through Friday.

Register for the conference at www.uswtmc.org and select the conference icon and complete the online registration form. Registration for the September conferences will open mid-to-late April.

Space is limited and will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. Walk-ins will not be accepted. You must pre-register online.

Conference registration is \$400 and payment can be made online with a major credit card or by check. Checks should be made payable to "Steelworkers Charitable and Education Organization" and mailed prior to the conference to: United Steelworkers, P.O. Box 1431, Antioch, TN 37011-1431.

Union members should arrive Sunday and management personnel on Monday. Everyone should make certain their return travel does not require them to leave the hotel prior to 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

For hotel, logistical and other information go to www.uswtmc.org or contact Mary Krutz at mkrutz@uswtmc.org.

How to Get Pulp Truth

If you would like to get your own copy of *Pulp Truth*, please email uswpaper@usw.org and give your name, home email address and local union number.