

# Pulp *Special Edition* truth



December 8, 2010

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## EPA Postpones Boiler MACT Rule; USW Believes Its Concerns Taken into Account

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed regulation to limit the emissions of hazardous air pollutants like mercury and hydrogen fluoride from industrial, commercial and institutional boilers. This regulation, known as the Boiler Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rule, was set to be finalized this month.

This week USW learned EPA had decided, in large part because of USW concerns, to postpone and rewrite the proposed rule. The postponement must be approved by the federal courts, but USW is confident EPA will get the time it needs to write a regulation that protects the environment and American jobs

“Our staff and leaders worked hard to get us to this point,” said USW President Leo W. Gerard. “We have a lot of credibility and a long track record on environmental issues, and we worked very effectively with our employers and environmental allies as we made the concerns with the EPA proposal known to the agency and the administration.”

A key goal of our Union is to ensure the safety and health of our members both at their places of work and in their communities. Because of this, we have been a strong and consistent supporter of environmental laws like the Clean Air Act and of tough environmental regulations.

The Boiler MACT regulation is another important rule by which the EPA seeks to ensure our nation's environmental safety by limiting emissions of hazardous air pollutants from many different industries. As proposed, however, the regulation could have a potentially devastating effect on some of our members' jobs and industries.

Our Union worked productively over the last year with both the Administration and USW industries such as pulp, paper and steel to address our concerns with the proposed Boiler MACT regulation. We sub-

mitted formal comments to the EPA that laid out these concerns, and we engaged in a series of discussions with the agency and the White House. In each of these meetings, we offered specific recommendations to improve the Boiler MACT rule.

“Because we jumped on this early and took a close careful look at the facts, we were able to effectively represent the concerns of our members in paper and all our sectors that would be affected,” said USW Vice President Jon Geenen, who handles the Union's collective bargaining in the paper sector.

As an acknowledgement of the concerns raised by both our Union and several industries, the EPA announced it would be delaying implementation of the final rule for one year. EPA will use this additional time to seek more input from stakeholders and more concrete information from affected employers in an effort to craft a final regulation that works for American workers and all USW industries.

We are pleased that the EPA was receptive to our concerns. Our Union's historic efforts around environmental policies helped make sure that our perspective was considered during this process. We recognize how important this rule is to our nation's environment, and are committed to working with the EPA to craft a regulation that protects Americans, effectively enhances air quality, and allows our nation's core industries to thrive and prosper.

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