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June 12, 2020

To Local 1010 Members:

My sisters and brothers, unfortunately, we are seeing some increases in Covid-19 reported cases in 12 or so states (the numbers change daily). Especially, with all the states opening up businesses and social gatherings, we must remain diligent and continue to focus on safe practices at home, in public and of course at work.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused us to cancel the 25 yr. Picnic this year. Our health concern for our retirees, active members and of course, all the volunteers who make this event possible, leaves no choice but to stay safe and cancel the picnic. We look forward to 2021 as the 25 year Picnic will resume next year!

According to District 7 Director, Mike Millsap, the Union and the Company exchanged the Final Layoff Minimum Plan (LMP) documents with Arbitrator Terry Bethel on June 10th. Later this month, Director Millsap will be the Union Advocate to present the Union's LMPs in arbitration.

The United States Domestic Auto Industry has seen a modest increase in overall demand as inventories continue to dwindle because new vehicle production ceased for months. The highest demand vehicles have been trucks and that's where the industry will focus full production for now.

Our Riverdale facility resumed production with three crews this week. More good news is that our Riverdale facility specific steel orders have picked up a bit.

Indiana Harbor East is recalling all 16 Maintenance Technician Mechanics currently on involuntary layoff (ILO) to support the upcoming #7 Blast Furnace Outage Repairs. We will also see a few more members recalled for production, janitorial and related assignments.

Management has indicated that the current plan is to continue operations at #4 SP, 80" Hot Strip Mill, #3 CS Pickle, Tandem, Anneal Line, and some slitting. The CAL Line started back up this week and is scheduled to also run the week of June 14th to fulfill a limited amount of orders. The 29 Temper Mill may slow down for now as business is still very erratic. Also, the #3 pickle line may add another crew to increase its production capabilities. #4 Steel Production has been running on a limited operating schedule which was projected to be through the month of June. New projections for #4SP may continue the operation through July and beyond. We will continue to report on our facilities as more information becomes available.

We have seen a slight uptick in orders. Indiana Harbor East Management remains cautious as we are not sure which ArcelorMittal Plants will receive any increases in steel orders. We know that orders are coming in with short lead times as the domestic steel demand in general remains very fluid. We have displaced craftspeople working in other areas in the plant to minimize layoffs. Displaced production members are working out of the plant wide labor pool created to minimize layoffs.

Local 1010 has NOT agreed with the Company on their approach for Voluntary Layoffs (VLOs). Members are free to make their own decisions but must understand the details as outlined in the company's VLO Form. As I have stated before, "None of the AM USA facilities covered by our Basic Labor Agreement has reached an agreement with their management counter parts on how to offer Voluntary layoffs (VLOs)". We will not agree to strip out our SUB benefits nor will we agree to force our members to stay out of the mill until management believes they need them back to work. So, those members' that choose to accept the company's VLO are able to do so at their own choice. However, everyone understands that they will be out of the plant indefinitely (at management's discretion), while other more junior coworkers are called back ahead of them.

1010 Officers have been out in our departments and continue to work with department representatives to ensure safe work practices are in place, availability of cleaning supplies, facilities are cleaned, and social distancing guidelines are followed. The Safety Committee along with department representatives are also checking to verify that all suspected/confirmed cases of COVID-19 get the proper follow-up responses. Management is responsible to notify affected co-workers and to make sure that all affected areas are cleaned according to our procedures and CDC guidelines. All relative information is in the hands of your department Grievance Representatives and Safety Advocates. If you have any issues related to your health and safety that are unable to be resolved at the department level with your department grievance representative or advocate, contact the Local 1010 Safety Committee. All safety contacts are at http://usw1010.org/safetydirectory.html.

Please note for those who are recalled from LAYOFF: Indiana Unemployment Officials have suggested that you should continue to fill out a voucher each week for State Unemployment Benefits. The UC request will obviously be denied but it will keep your claim ongoing and will be easier to restart if you are laid off multiple times in this uncertain business climate.

As we look out for each other, be safe at work and at home. Remember our members and families that are experiencing health issues, keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

In Solidarity, Steve