

IBEW LOCAL 1007

Hello brothers and sisters,

I wanted to give you an update with so many rumours going around. I think the intended purpose of the communication by management was to let everyone know that the number for layoffs was not as high as anticipated to allay some fears. I know that it also invited more questions; however, it would be premature at this time for me to answer these. There are many things to work through with the company. This includes technicalities and language intention with our legal counsel. Our recourse to these pressing issues is also dependent on these answers.

The language for displacement and reversion is very complicated when it comes to this number of positions and varying class codes. I will say though that there will be displaced positions all around EPCOR. There will be members moved out of positions that they hold, by virtue of seniority, and qualifications. It was mentioned that certain positions would not be able to be replaced by the very specified nature and understanding of these jobs. While that is true, it will be very limited. Every position anywhere would of course require some level of training. Not every position is exactly the same as another. This is to be expected, but in most cases not an insurmountable obstacle.

There will be disruption in all areas of EPCOR. Work and production will be affected. This is only one of the factors EPCOR needs to weigh in making the decision to lay off our permanent members. We work in a unionized environment and we will uphold seniority and class codes that are in the CBA for a reason. These are the guidelines that we are working with the company to interpret properly and uphold.

I know this is a stressful and troubling time. We all take great pride in the work we do. We are all specialized and have more understanding of, and care taken in the systems we helped build and maintain year-round than anyone. We need to understand that it is not our brothers and sisters that are making these decisions. It is also not one that any of us wanted or would have asked for. This is why we must stand in solidarity.

It is very unfortunate that we cannot hold Unit meetings right now. I am reticent to elaborate further on this public page however please know we are doing everything in our power to fight for our members. I will pass information through our shop stewards as I know more.

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