



Building Material and Construction Trade news

Spring 2003

Teamsters Support PWOA

Urges FERC to Reject El Paso Corp.

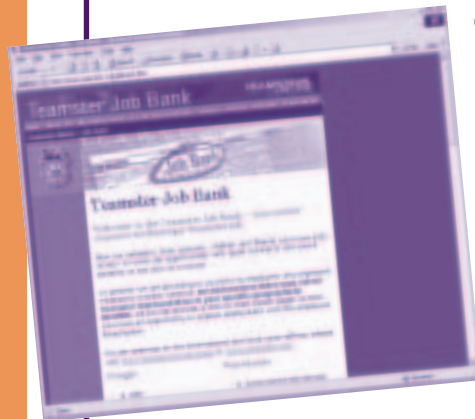
On January 16, the Teamsters Building Material & Construction Trade Division (BM&CTD) showed their support for members of the Pipeline Workers of America (PWOA) as they rallied in the nation's capitol. The rally, held outside the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) headquarters, was organized to protest El Paso Corporation's application to build the Blue Atlantic pipeline project.

"The El Paso Corporation has a proven history of hiring unsafe contractors and has been fined more than



From Website to Jobsite

BM&CTD Online Tool Matches Members, Jobs



The Building Material & Construction Trade Division (BM&CTD) has rolled out an enhanced Member Job Bank and a secure database link on the division's section of the Teamster website (www.teamster.org). This online tool provides a link between BM&CTD members that are out of work and local unions that are experiencing workforce shortages or are gearing up to man a job.

"We hope this tool will allow workers around the country to connect with good-paying Teamster jobs, and for locals looking for qualified union workers to

TEAMSTERS

A Message from Building Material and Construction Trade Division Director Richard Stern



Building for the Future

The focus in the Building Material and Construction Trade Division this year is organizing. Visit the division's page on the Teamster website (<http://www.teamster.org>) for information on the major campaigns we expect

to launch. We plan to target a few key industries to expand our numbers and help North America's construction trades workers achieve a better living for themselves and their families.

For example, our division is working hard on behalf of the Pipeline Union Mobilization Project (PUMP). The Teamsters are one of four unions involved in this coalition project to organize workers in the pipeline industry. We have the attention of the major pipeline companies, and we are showing them what

we can accomplish through solidarity and union power. The goal of the effort is to educate the major pipeline carriers on the advantages of using union labor with up-to-date safety and equipment training.

Also on the national level, the division continues to fight the assault from the Bush Administration on Davis-Bacon protections, which ensure that wage standards are not undercut. We are monitoring the Department of Labor's Davis-Bacon surveys, and, with the help of our Government Affairs Department, are actively lobbying to be sure there is no chipping away at this important legislation.

We can make a difference for workers in the building and construction trades as we focus on not only improving the lives of our current members, but also on working to bring more members into the Teamster family.

From Website to Jobsite

continued from page 1

find the people they need," said Richard Stern, BM&CTD Director. "The division is committed to using every available resource to help our members during these difficult economic times."

Members who are out of work can visit the BM&CTD section and fill out the form located at http://www.teamster.org/divisions/bmc/job_bank/job_bank_form.asp. The form allows members to specify what equipment they are qualified to drive/operate, what training certifications they have and what class CDL and endorsements they hold. All form submissions remain in the secure

database for 60 days before being automatically purged. At that time, members are welcome to resubmit their information. If a member finds work before the 60 days are up, they are asked to email bmctd@teamster.org so their submission can be removed from the system.

International Representatives, Joint Councils and Local Unions must fax in a request on local union letterhead to receive a username and password to search the submissions in the database also located on the BM&CTD section. Requests must be faxed to the division at 202-624-8107.

Organizing Roundup

Local 395 Organizes Saskatchewan Mine Drivers

In Saskatchewan, Canada, Local 395 received official word that it was certified to represent 35 drivers who haul materials into uranium mines.

The local received a bargaining certificate from the Canadian Industrial Relations Board after 33 of the 35 drivers signed union cards. The workers signed the cards after local officials met with the drivers to discuss their concerns about wages and working conditions.

The drivers haul propane and other mining supplies into the mines. They work for Northern Resource Trucking of Saskatoon.

“We are really excited to represent these hardworking drivers. They deserve higher wages and better working conditions,” said Randy Powers, a business agent and organizer with the local.

Victory at Georgia Waste Management

At Waste Management Inc., almost two-thirds of a unit of 82 drivers and mechanics at the company’s Atlanta–South facility voted for a Teamster voice at work.

Workers at the Georgia facility, who are now members of Local 728, stood strong together in the face of management’s repeated threats of plant closure, termination and loss of benefits.



“We were simply fed up with the company’s policies,” said Dale Respass, a 10-year driver at Atlanta-South and the lead organizer in the campaign. “The local and the International worked together to help us achieve the working conditions and fair pay we deserve.”

The Teamsters represent more than 5,000 workers at Waste Management Inc. throughout the U.S.

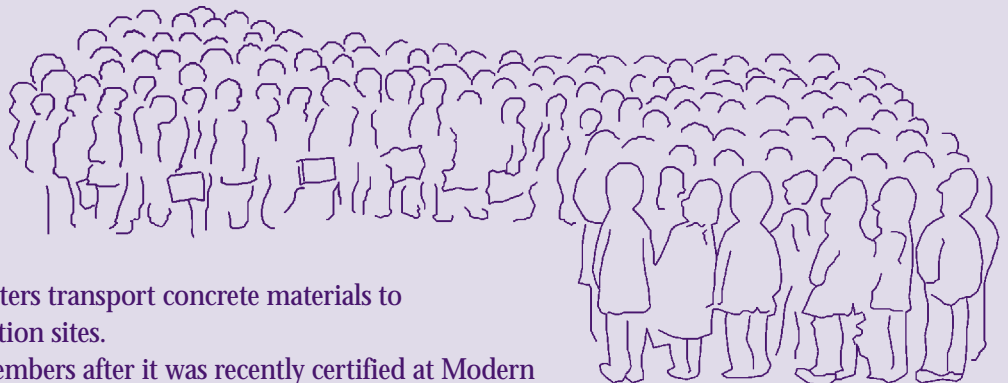
Local 879 Membership Increases By More Than 200

Local 879 gained more than 75 new members through three recent organizing victories at Cotton Ready-Mix Inc. in Niagara Falls, Ontario; Metrix Ready-Mix Ltd. in Milton, Ontario; and Hy-Grade Precast Concrete Inc. in St.

Catharines, Ontario. The new Teamsters transport concrete materials to commercial and residential construction sites.

The local also gained 130 new members after it was recently certified at Modern Landfill Inc., a solid waste and recycling unit in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

“Recent labor law changes have left nonunion workers vulnerable to employers,” said Ken Dean, an organizer for Local 879 in Hamilton, Ontario. “These members know that they are secure in a brighter future for their families with the Teamsters.”



Teamsters Support PWOA

\$2.5 million by the Office of Pipeline Safety,” said Randy Evans, Project Coordinator for the PWOA. “That’s not the type of proven record a community or the federal government should be looking for.”

The Teamsters and the pipeline workers believe that El Paso’s history of disregard for its workers coupled with its legal troubles should disqualify it from winning the \$2.5 billion project.

The Teamsters have joined a coalition composed of the United Association (Welders), Laborers Union and the

“We will definitely target the safety records and mistreatment of workers by companies like the El Paso Corporation and their sub-contractees.”

— Norm Bouley,
International Organizer, BM&CTD

International Organizer for the BM&CTD. “Working together we can increase employment for union members and shine a light on those companies who have shoddy records and put workers at risk.”

Operating Engineers Union to build support for greater safety and more union jobs in the pipeline industry.

“We will definitely target the safety records and mistreatment of workers by companies like the El Paso Corporation and their sub-contractees like Sunland Construction,” said Norm Bouley,

www.teamsters.org

Two Decades of Danger

The El Paso Corporation:

- Has been implicated in the California energy price-fixing conspiracy that resulted in \$2 billion in economic damage to California taxpayers;
- Has been subpoenaed by a grand jury in the worst pipeline explosion in a quarter century resulting in the deaths of 12 people, including five children;
- Has been fined \$2.5 million for safety violations, including failure to perform proper corrosion inspections which resulted in an explosion in Carlsbad, New Mexico;
- Has had 40 documented pipeline ruptures since 1985.



A Look Back

Safety and well-developed, practiced skills have always been important goals for the Teamsters. Early strikes and negotiations often focused on seemingly simple things

that we take for granted today in the workplace, such as meal breaks, rest periods, and a working day that allows enough time to rejuvenate for the next days' labor.

Training was also an important factor, as "green" workers not only slowed the job down, but frequently caused injury to themselves and others. In the Teamsters view, a well-trained worker was a benefit to all concerned. Sufficient training, along with safe surroundings and work routines are talking points in any contract, but through the years locals have been encouraged to assist with training and develop programs that fit the needs of their members.

These photos, taken from the July 1966 issue of Teamster magazine, highlight just such a training program at Local 439 in Stockton, California. The program still exists today.



A Message from Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa



Strength In Numbers

One of the biggest challenges any union faces is growing its ranks. Growth means power and strength in the face of corporate adversity. This year, the Building Material and Construction Trade Division (BM&CTD) will focus on growing the division—and the union—through targeted organizing efforts.

But organizing is not something solely accomplished by a few. Members can participate by showing their Teamster pride. Get active in your local union, and consider volunteering to talk to the unorganized about what it means to be a Teamster. Workers whose lives are already

benefiting from strong Teamster contracts are the best union advocates.

We all share pride in our great union. Tell others about that pride—it is one of the most effective ways to build our strength by growing our numbers.

Remember—United We Win!

Fraternally,

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