



Protest the increased dumping of hazardous and radioactive waste in Detroit!

Protest expansion of the hazardous waste facility in Detroit near Hamtramck!

Saturday, October 3rd at 10 am

6520 Georgia Street - Detroit

The corporation cynically named "US Ecology" has announced plans to increase its capacity to process radioactive and hazardous waste **BY 10 TIMES** in the heart of Detroit, just south of Hamtramck. Liquid waste is being dumped into the Detroit Waste Water Treatment Plant!

We will not be silent while our community is being polluted!

Ban Fracking and Frack Waste in Michigan!

Protest coordinated by the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan; Ban Michigan Fracking; and Metro Detroiters for Bernie. Also backed by *Detroit Workers' Voice*.

Detroit Workers' Voice supports progressive demonstrations and actions organized by other groups and political trends as well as our own activities. We are happy to unite with other activists in the struggle against the dirty method of extracting natural gas called "fracking" and against processing hazardous waste next to our homes.

Fracking is not only a procedure that pollutes the ground, but it prolongs the use of fossil fuels that are destroying the climate. The fracking process involves poisonous chemicals that ruin the land, breaks up geological formations creating instability leading to earthquakes, and involves the leaking of natural gas into the atmosphere. Natural gas is a far more potent greenhouse gas than the feared carbon dioxide, so even the leak of a very small amount of natural gas in pipelines and fracking installations makes a mockery of the claim that natural gas is a green "transition" fuel.

Fracking also gives rise to a large amount of toxic waste. As part of environmental racism, waste processing facilities are often

placed in areas with minorities or poor people. The capitalist authorities still haven't even cleaned up lead in Detroit, so that many children still suffer from lead poisoning, but now they want to dump large amounts of hazardous waste here.

Below is the text of the leaflet being distributed to promote the demonstration on Saturday:

US Ecology, a hazardous waste facility operating in the middle of Detroit, has requested that its Detroit (North) location near Hamtramck be allowed to expand its operations by 10 times with their eye on huge profits from frack and other hazardous waste.

Michigan has opened its arms to large amount of radioactive frack waste from fracking sites around the country. Frack waste from other states is being transported on truck, down our roads and into our city for processing. At US Ecology, liquid radioactive wastes are processed for solidification, the solids shipped to Idaho and liquid residue from this processing is dumped into the Detroit Waste water treatment plant.

Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) stated that it plans to approve US Ecology's request to expand. This expansion plan will only exacerbate an already egregious public health and environmental situation by pumping radioactivity into the Detroit water system. This practice was banned in Pennsylvania in 2011 because high levels of bromide were found in the liquid waste, which, when combined with the chlorine in the water, produced cancer-causing chemicals.

Detroit is already carrying the toxic burden of the largest incinerator in the world and the 250 acre Marathon refinery. And now US Ecology wants to bring more hazardous, radioactive waste into the heart of our city, and radioactivity into our public water system.

Join us at the protest on Saturday, Oct. 3rd, and get involved in two efforts: The DEQ has extended a public comment period until October 12; and the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan's ballot initiative to ban frack wastes from the state would put a stop to this practice statewide. (See www.letsbanfracking.org). ■

Good news: the UAW-Chrysler tentative agreement has been voted down!

Solidarity with auto workers fighting two-tier wages!

The tentative Chrysler contract has gone down in flames. Auto workers are angry at Chrysler for demanding yet more concessions from them, despite huge profits, and at the UAW leadership for agreeing to extend the two-tier wage system. Indeed, the new contract would have had even more tiers than the old one.

The auto workers' struggle directly concerns all workers. The

rank-and-file auto workers are fighting on issues that affect us all. Two-tier (and more-tier) wage systems have burgeoned in union contracts all over the country since one was established in auto in 2007. The two major postal unions, the APWU and the NALC, representing the majority of postal workers, adopted multiple-tier systems beginning in 2011. In the case of the APWU, the traitorous

leadership imposed a three-tier system in spite of a unanimous vote against two-tiers at the 2010 National Convention. And still today, in current negotiations now headed for arbitration, the new APWU leadership is *not* demanding an end to the three-tier system. Indeed, it has just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with postal management to reinstitute the use casuals during the Christmas period. Unless postal workers stand up against these deals by the APWU leadership, as auto workers have voted down the contract negotiated by the UAW leadership, we will be saddled for years to come with the three-tier system.

The defeat of the tentative Chrysler contract, however, doesn't mean the end of the two-tier system. This depends on what the ultimate contract will be. The Big Three automakers aren't going to abandon such a profitable system of exploitation as multi-tier wages just because one contract has been turned down. The Chrysler workers still have a difficult struggle ahead of them, but this first victory may inspire them, and also Ford and GM workers.

The struggle against the tentative contract has taken organization. Workers have used social media and other means to fight back against the lies of the UAW leadership. Information was circulated on such Facebook pages as "UAW Real Talk, GM, Ford, FCA", "SHOW YOUR NO VOTE!", and "Autoworkers Caravan". **There have been several demonstrations this year of angry UAW workers in front of UAW headquarters, Solidarity House, and another one will be held this Sunday at noon at 8000 E. Jefferson Ave. Other workers against two-tier, such as postal workers, are welcome to come!** Rank-and-file auto workers, postal workers, and others cannot rely on the official union organizations: we need to supplement it by links among ourselves, and we need to keep the heat on the union leaderships.

Below is a summary of some of the features of the contract taken by a report from Tim Hall, whose FB page is at <https://www.facebook.com/tim.hall.94695459>:

Why auto workers rejected the tentative agreement

The tentative contract has two gigantic flaws, along with many others. *First*, it fails to close the gap between the lower-tier workers, who make a little over half the wage for the same work as do the workers hired before October 29, 2007, when the Obama administration forced this deep concession on the workers as part of the auto bailout. The tentative contract contains raises for the lower-tier workers, but they will remain several dollars of hourly pay below the higher-paid at the end of this four-year pact. At the same time, the low-tier (called "tier 2") workers are divided into three categories and these, too, have different wage structures, so that the UAW, if this contract is passed, will actually have four different low-wage tiers for unskilled laborers doing the same work as the workers hired before 2007.

This is an insulting offer to the low-tier workers, some of whom have labored alongside co-workers making almost double their pay for seven years. Four more years of inequality, even though modified, is a disgrace! The auto companies are rolling in record profits. Let them restore union pay equality, is the sentiment of large numbers of Chrysler workers, who voted 95% and more to authorize striking before the tentative language was revealed. That sentiment remains very high, as the picketing today proves.

In addition, other pay matters are arousing bitter opposition. COLA, which was removed in 2007, is not restored in the new contract. It has been one of the main ways auto workers have fought inflation to defend their real wages in the past. Also, the

tentative contract contains small raises for Tier 1 workers, with bonuses down the road promised if certain production goals are reached. Tier 1 workers have not had a raise (or COLA) since 2007, so this paltry money is not causing any celebrations, and will likely be eaten up by a more costly health care system (see below). Plus, promises of bonuses depending on future performance can easily turn out to be fairy tales. And bonuses are not rolled into the pay structure but are here today, gone tomorrow. Additionally, there is no raise in pensions. Retired workers are seeing their pensions eaten up by inflation and increased health care expenses under the union-controlled VEBA health apparatus. This grievous situation has ominous implications for the new health care package proposed for current workers.

The second major flaw in the tentative Chrysler contract agreed to by the UAW leaders is a plan to take health care out of the hands of the company and put it in the hands of the union, as has been done with the VEBA created for retiree health care a few years back. This is disastrous and has caused great consternation among the workers. Management would be let completely off the hook for health care, and that is enough to condemn this proposal in the eyes of alert workers. Furthermore, the shape and form of this "cooperative" is not specified. It is either secret or not yet negotiated, but at any rate, the workers are not informed how their health care is to be handled. But they are asked to vote to accept this proposal, sight unseen. Incredible!

In other matters, attendance discipline, which is already inhumanly rigid, is tightened. There is no cap on hiring temporary workers to an even lower pay than the Tier 2 long-term workers. And the list goes on. ■

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Some topics that have been recently covered on this list:

- BDS and solidarity with the Palestinian people (Sept. 4, 2015)
- Sea levels could rise faster than expected (Aug. 27, 2015)
- Auto workers demonstrate against two-tier wages (July 10 and June 13, 2015)
- About Earth Day 2015 (April 23, 2015)
- Which way at the environmental teach-in + 50 (April 17, 2015)
- Will Pan-Africanists support the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa? (February 15, 2015)
- Black lives matter! Anti-racist protests continue around the country (Dec. 14, 2014)
- A Palestinian denounces the anti-imperialism of fools – in defense of the struggle against the Syrian dictatorship (Oct.28).

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Website: www.communistvoice.org

E-mail: mail@communistvoice.org

Write: CV PO Box 28536, Joyfield Sta., Detroit, MI 48228