

GE HYDRO LACHINE SHOP CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENT



The End of Illusions

Last September 26th, Mr. Bill Mateer, Director of G.E. Hydro in Lachine, announced to Union leaders the decision of high-level management of G.E. Power Systems to proceed with a reorganisation. Our shops will be closed on June 27th, 2008. This reorganisation will involve the moving of all our activities to Brazil, to Inepar, (company associated with G.E for many years).

This decision has fallen upon us after a long period of uncertainty. There was, at first, the announcement that G.E. Hydro was sold to PGC on December 20th, 2006, followed by its cancellation six months later, last June, and the wait for its sequel.

During a long period of uncertainty, G.E. let us believe that everything was yet possible: major investments, rebuilding of our machinery, etc. All throughout this period, our Union asked many questions, without ever receiving any real answers.

Before the announcement of the closing, G.E. often stated that service and rebuilds of hydroelectric material assured the future of our plant. These fine words were no more than *fine illusions*.

At the time of the announcement, Mr. Bill Mateer declared that “following the reorganisation, G.E. is no longer interested in the market for rebuilds”, and he added “that and eventual buyer of our plants would have to promise G.E. that they would not do work on Hydro-electric products”. . .

The speech of G.E. is contradictory. One day they state that the reorganisation is necessary because there is no more market in North America, and the next they state that they will not sell the plants to a competitor.

With this announcement, G.E. announces the end of 89 years of history, the end of a heavyweight in Quebec industry, suppliers of at least half of all of Hydro-Quebec’s current equipment.

Your Union is currently working in the placing of all kinds of resources, a reclassification committee, information sessions on retirement and employment insurance in order to help our members in this difficult period.

Your Plant Survival Committee is also working directly with Urgence-Emploi (QFL) and the Solidarity Fund towards studying ways to assure the survival of our plants, and to assure the maximum of jobs.

I would like to thank Dave Chartrand, our new District 11 Director, as well as his team who helped us to reach the media to announce the closing. District 11 also assures us that they will be ready to support us in our need.

Michel Lavoie

Shop Chairperson GE Hydro

I.A.M.A.W. Local Lodge 1660