



March 20, 2008

To all North American unions representing energy workers:

Greetings:

We are pleased to invite you to attend the second tri-national meeting of North American energy workers that will take place in New Orleans, LA on April 20, 2008. This meeting will bring together representatives of energy worker unions in the United States, Mexico and Canada, as well as the principal hemispheric solidarity networks that coordinate labour solidarity on trade and human rights issues. Also, participating in this forum will be the international trade union federation of energy workers, ICEM.

The energy workers forum will take place on the eve of the annual: Security and Prosperity Partnership” summit of George Bush, Mexican president Felipe Calderón and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The New Orleans SPP Summit will take place April 21-22, 2008.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) is an elite project to promote continental integration of North America under the leadership and direction of corporations in each country. The SPP is not just a political meeting of heads of state. It is an ongoing corporate program to change national policies without the oversight or input of democratic institutions. In the area of energy policy there are 11 working groups of unelected corporate and government officials dealing with issues such as continental energy reserves, the tar sands of Canada, the privatization of Mexico’s state owned oil and gas company Pemex, electricity networks, nuclear power and environmental standards.

The purpose of our forum is to understand the corporate vision of an integrated North American energy industry and to build solidarity among energy workers on the basis of an independent, democratic and sustainable energy policy in each country.

A first tri-national meeting was held in August, 2007 in Montreal to coincide with the SPP Summit at Montebello, Quebec. The unions participating in the Montreal tri-national forum included USW, CEP Canada, CUPE Canada, SME Mexico, FAT Mexico, Nuclear Workers Mexico (SUTIN) and petroleum workers in Mexico (UNCIP/ANDTP). We hope that all of the principal unions which participated in the Montreal forum will be at the New Orleans forum, as well as other unions that represent energy workers in the three countries.

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International
Union

5 Gateway Center Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone 412-562-2514 Fax 412-562-2572

In addition to energy worker unions, the New Orleans forum will also include the principal solidarity networks: Alliance for Responsible Trade (United States), Mexican Action Network on Free Trade (RMALC), Common Frontiers (Canada) and Réseau Québécois sur l'intégration continentale (RQIC) (Quebec).

A teach-in and alternative summit organized by community organizations and labour will also be held in New Orleans on April 22-22, 2008. The Katrina hurricane and the reconstruction of New Orleans has demonstrated vividly the inequality of American society during the Bush era, and the civil society alternative summit promises to be very educational.

On April 21, 2008, the North American affiliates of ICEM will hold a regular meeting. If your organization is not affiliated to ICEM and you would like to attend as an observer, please let us know.

Please join us in New Orleans on April 20, 2008. The venue for the forum is International House, where we have also set aside a block of rooms under the name of Energy Workers Forum at \$139 per night, commencing on April 19, 2008. Please call the International House directly to make your reservation.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
221 CAMP STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130
TEL: 504-553-9550
FAX: 504-553-9560
E-MAIL: RESERVATIONS@IHHOTEL.COM
1-800-633-5770

Contact information:

United States:

Doug Niehouse, USW International Affairs, 412-562-2503, dniehouse@usw.org


Canada:

Alan Tate, CEP of Canada, 613-230-5200, atate@cep.ca

Mexico:

Ben Davis, Director/Country Program Director, 202-550-3729, bdavis@solidaritycenter.org

In solidarity,



Gary Beevers
International Vice President



J.M. "Mickey" Breaux
Director