





Local Motion

March 2007

Union election activity in Oregon and SW Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Elections held

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		Icon
				Union	No Union	
Homesield	3/21	Teamsters Local 670	The Dalles	11	11	
Northern Management Services	3/22	UFCW Local 555	Eugene	3	1	
Frito-Lay (decertification)	3/26	Teamsters 58, 206, 305, 324	Portland	97	141	
Coast Rehabilitation Services (decertification)	3/29	AFSCME Council 75	Warrenton	72	43	

Elections requested

Company	Location	# of employees
Haggen	Beaverton	6
Bakers Local 114		
Kaiser Permanente (accounts payable)	Portland	10
Service Employees International Union Local 49		
Kaiser Permanente (purchasing, supply center)	Portland	9
Service Employees International Union Local 49		
First Student	Molalla	40
Oregon School Employees Association		
Oregon Housing & Associated Services	Salem	22
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757		
Providence Home Services Division	Portland	168
Oregon Nurses Association		
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest	Portland	26
Service Employees International Union Local 49		
Clatsop Care Center	Astoria	55
Service Employees International Union Local 503		

Construction workers gain protection against cancer-causing compound in Portland cement

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — The Laborers, the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department won federal agreement to inspect and protect construction workers against a cancer-causing compound — hexavalent chromium — found in one of the most-common types of cement, Portland cement.

The pact, announced April 10, will order Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspectors to make sure employers follow proper safety procedures — such as having proper washing facilities and protective equipment for workers — against “hex chrome,” as it is called.

Building Trades Department President Edward Sullivan said OSHA also

must show which construction sites use Portland cement, so that the agency and BCTD can monitor exposure.

Hexavalent chromium is not only cancer-causing, but it’s a toxin hazardous to workers’ skin, eyes and lungs, BCTD said. Construction workers who handle cement laced with the compound can also contract a career-ending disease, allergic contact dermatitis.

OSHA previously settled a long “hex chrome” lawsuit with the Steelworkers Union and environmental groups. They sued because OSHA deliberately did not want to write a rule against the compound. The agency that is charged with protecting workers from dangerous jobs finally moved after the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in

In response to labor lawsuit, Labor Dept. agrees to employer payment for safety gear

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In response to a lawsuit filed by the national AFL-CIO and the Change to Win labor federation’s United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), the Bush Administration has agreed to issue a final rule on employer payment for personal protective equipment for employees.

In 1999, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) first proposed a personal protective equipment rule that would require employers to pay the costs of protective clothing, lifelines, face shields, gloves and other equipment used by an estimated 20 million workers to protect them from job hazards.

“This rulemaking has taken far too long,” said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. “We will be monitoring the Department of Labor’s actions to make sure they honor this commitment and issue a strong protective rule.”

On Jan. 3, 2007, the AFL-CIO and UFCW filed a lawsuit against the Bush Administration over its failure to finalize the payment for personal protective equipment rule. The court ordered the Bush Administration to respond to the lawsuit by March 19. On March 14, the secretary of labor filed papers with the court committing to issue a final rule in November 2007.

“This is a victory for workers who have suffered needlessly while awaiting action by the Bush Administration,” said Joe Hansen, international president of UFCW. “According to OSHA’s own estimates, 400,000 workers have been injured and 50 have died while the rule has been in limbo. We expect a strong final rule this November.”

Workers in the meatpacking, poultry and construction industries, and low-wage and immigrant workers are most vulnerable to injury.

The rule was first announced in 1997 and proposed in 1999 by OSHA

In 1999, OSHA promised to issue the final personal protective equipment rule in July 2000. But it missed that deadline and has missed every self-imposed deadline since.

after a ruling by the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission that OSHA’s existing personal protective equipment standard could not be interpreted to require employers to pay for protective equipment.

The rule proposed in 1999 did not impose any new obligations on employers to provide safety equipment; it simply codified OSHA’s policy that employers, not employees, have the responsibility to pay for it.

In 1999, OSHA promised to issue the final personal protective equipment rule in July 2000. But it missed that deadline and has missed every self-imposed deadline since.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, asked the court to issue an order directing the secretary of labor to complete the personal protective equipment rule within 60 days of the court’s order.



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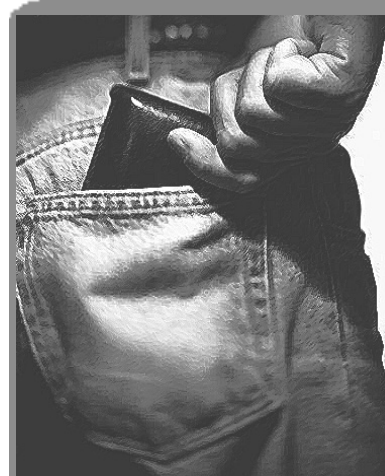
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