



'ANGUS BARKS'

By Jeff Francis
AEG Executive Board

January Questions

WHY WERE OUR COLA RAISES 2¢-8¢-0¢ WHEN GASOLINE PRICES ARE SO HIGH?

In 2006 the Consumer Price Index peaked in August, as summer gas prices skyrocketed. We all paid those prices. But by October, the CPI fell back to April's level. Because our COL formula uses the April and October figures as the measuring points, our COL raise at the end of 2006 was 0¢.

In April 2007 we received an 8¢ COL to cover the CPI rise Oct '06 thru Feb '07. During March, April, May 2007 we had no COL coverage at the end of our last contract. The rise in prices during this **3 month gap** in coverage was *triple* the rise in prices during the prior 6 month, covered period.

The 2¢ raise we just received in December covered June thru Oct 2007. In total, from Oct '06 thru Oct '07, **we lost 36¢ in COL raises** due to the 3-month gap in coverage. These obvious problems in our COL formula need to be addressed in our next contract negotiations.

HOW IS MY VACATION RATE DETERMINED?

Your 2008 vacation rate is based on your total 2007 clock hours. You must total 2184 or more clock hours last year to get a vacation rate above 8.0. See chart below. Note that an hour of overtime counts the same as an hour during the week. Absences, especially STD and TLOW can greatly reduce your weekly average. Certain absences count as time worked, including workers comp, vacation, sick days and holidays (see Art 9 of the contract).

Use this chart and your 2007 timecards (available on computer) to calculate your 2007 weekly average. If the multiplier on your paycheck looks wrong, ask Payroll to investigate.

MIN YEARLY HOURS	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS	WEEKLY HOUR MULTIPLIER	DAILY HOUR MULTIPLIER
Up to 2183	40 but less than 42	40	8.0
2184	42 but less than 42.5	42	8.4
2210	42.5 but less than 43.5	43	8.6
2262	43.5 but less than 44.5	44	8.8
2314	44.5 but less than 45.5	45	9.0
2366	45.5 but less than 46.5	46	9.2
2418	46.5 but less than 47.5	47	9.4
2470	47.5 and higher	48	9.6

WHY AREN'T ALL JOB OPENINGS POSTED?

Our current rules *require* the Company to post all Primary Openings which include openings resulting from retirement, termination or additional work. The Company is *not required* to post Secondary Openings which are vacancies created by an employee's upgrade. When filling an unposted Secondary Opening, the Company **must** consider all applications on file at the Employment Office. So if you're interested in upgrading to a job, don't wait for a posting, submit your application, and keep a copy. Applications remain on file at the Employment Office for 1 year.

WHEN DO I GET A COPY OF THE NEW CONTRACT?

Under federal law, each of us has a right to a copy of our national contract. Corporate GE is responsible for printing the new 2007-2011 National Agreement. The stewards in Plant I & II will help distribute them when they arrive. Why does it take 6 months for the world's best corporation to print one small book? That's a good question.

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