



PRESS RELEASE

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FURTHER ROUND OF STRIKES CALLED AT SELLAFIELD

Cumbria's biggest general trade union has announced a further round of stoppages at Sellafield.

The GMB Union, which represents the Health Physics Monitors, have notified Sellafield management that further strike action is to take place by this worker group on:

Tuesday 25th August 2015 from 8.30am to 12.30pm with a March from Yottonfews to Sellafield Main Gate.

Wednesday 26th August 2015 starting at 6.30am for two full days ending on Friday 28th August 2015 at 6.30am.

The GMB says that management have made no further attempts at any reasoned dialogue and therefore the action of the Monitors is necessary especially as they have delivered a massive mandate, compliant with current and proposed future legislation, by a secret ballot for industrial action.

Chris Jukes GMB Senior Organiser said:

"Management have spent weeks spinning a line from a busted PR machine without any substance behind it. Management have said they have tried negotiations. Wrong they haven't. They have spent weeks trying to tell the outside world it is business as usual but it isn't".

The GMB Union said that Management at Sellafield created the situation by the way they have handled the Monitors' pay banding issue as well as any solution.

Mr Jukes said:

"Management blatantly tried to de-recognise the GMB and our members 18 months ago by grading the Monitors in such a way that the GMB would have lost recognition rights. Yet what management are now holding out for is a far poorer deal for the Monitors than the offer they made to the workforce 18 months ago. The fact is Management have moved the goalposts repeatedly and even when perfectly reasonable solutions were at hand, Management would rather attack the GMB and its members than seek to resolve matters. They have just inflamed matters and as such there will be a March from Yottonfews to the Sellafield Main Gate on 25th August during that strike period. We have recently seen an excellent media programme by Professor Jim Al-Khalili on Sellafield about the site from inception to now. What a shame that current management is failing to live up to those high ideals that built and grew Sellafield in the first place and carried that important work on for decades since".

The GMB said that they are aware of the divisions that Management are seeking to drive between industrial workers on site with communications which smack of public relations first, macho management second, personal attacks third.

Mr Jukes said:

"The sheer propaganda that Management have been putting out is aimed at talking tough. The dispute is also rapidly becoming as much about personalities on site as reaching a reasonable, professional and productive settlement. That should be the goal of all sides and GMB members are most certainly up for that. The Health Physics Monitors need support. What the rest of the workforce need to know is that it is the Monitors today. It could well be other workers coming under attack next from an emboldened Management backed by new laws. The way that Management have gone about the regrading of workers does not fill us any with confidence about much wider issues on pay and grading that management want to engage in, their so called Broad Roll Mapping. If Management can't get the Monitors' situation right, how on earth do they expect to get it right for the rest of the thousands of workers that work in house at Sellafield".

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