



# PRESS RELEASE

## INDUSTRIAL UNREST AT CHEMICAL COMPANY

There appears to be a looming dispute at a major chemical company in West Cumbria.

Cumbria's biggest general union the GMB is undertaking a ballot of its membership in Eastman Chemical in Siddick, Workington.

Negotiations have taken place with the Company since January 2013 in an attempt to secure a pay offer that covered inflation. After a series of meetings the company tabled an offer of 2.8% which was put to the membership in a secret ballot and was rejected by 84% to 16%.

The GMB said that further discussions took place and after another two meetings, the Company rejected outright the GMB's proposals to try to negotiate a settlement. Subsequent to the breakdown in discussions the GMB have started a ballot for industrial action amongst its membership at the Company, which ends on May 3rd 2013.

Eastman employs approximately 160 at its Workington site, GMB has 100% membership in the area under dispute.

GMB Regional Organiser Kevin Young said:

"Only a few months ago Jim Rodgers, Eastman CEO stated that the company had posted record profits, so offering our members a below inflation pay rise is asking our members to take a pay cut in times of austerity which is nothing less than corporate greed. What Mr. Rodgers and the Senior Management Team at Workington need to understand is that it is the hard work and dedication of the workforce that turn out the profit for the company on a daily basis and we would expect them to have a small share in the company's prosperity, albeit just to cover inflation. They are not asking for the earth."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Eastman Chemical at the Workington site is a manufacturer of Acetate Tow which is used to make cigarette filters.



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