

RIG WORKERS VOICE



26th June 2009

Issue 21

Rig Workers Say NO to Second Rate Agreement

On Monday the 22nd July AWU/MUA Organiser Glen Williams visited the DP Drilling Rig EnSCO 7500 off Barrow Island in Western Australia.

The purpose of the visit was to inspect the rig. On the visit Glen had an opportunity to meet with rig workers to discuss EnSCO's proposed Non Union Employee Collective Agreement which had been put out to vote by the company without any prior discussion or negotiations with the workers regarding the content.

One group of workers reported that at the end of their last hitch on the rig they arrived at Perth Airport to be met by a company representative who whisked them all into a bus and took them to a nearby hotel where a lawyer was waiting with a copy of the agreement and asked them to sign it.

After a brief look at the agreement the workers discovered that it locked them into very poor terms and conditions of employment for five years. In it EnSCO would review salaries on an annual basis and then decide how much if any increase would be paid, four weeks hitches and a stand down clause that virtually allowed EnSCO to stand down workers on no pay whenever they felt it necessary.

This group of workers all stood together united and refused to sign this ***second rate agreement*** and have subsequently joined the AWU/MUA Alliance along with most of their work mates.

Another worker reported that on the tow over from South Africa the rig workers went fourteen days over their hitch and were all given \$100 per day on top of their wages in compensation for not being home with their families.

This is totally unacceptable and well below what overcycle payments are across the industry.

This week the workforce voted NO and rejected the agreement.

The Alliance will be taking these matters up with EnSCO and seeking fair payment for ALL workers on ENSCO 7500.

As this newsletter goes out the AWU/MUA Alliance have been in contact with EnSCO and AMMA to seek a meeting to talk through many of the issues on the rig and to engage in negotiations towards getting a collective agreement that is reflective of the standards that are enjoyed by every other sector of the offshore oil and gas industry such as construction and production.

The EnSCO 7500 workers have united together to fight for a fairer go and improved terms and conditions of employment on their rig.

Join the campaign and get a better deal for you and your rig today.

Become an Alliance member NOW!

The MUA-AWU Offshore Alliance is YOUR voice!!

For more information please contact Glen Williams on glen.williams@mua.org.au - 0401 271 740