

RIG WORKERS VOICE



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Breakthrough Meeting for MUA-AWU Members

For the first time MUA and AWU Alliance officials have met jointly with Ensco representatives on behalf of both marine, drill and deck crews. The meeting took place on Monday August 24 to discuss the substandard accommodation standards on the Ensco 7500 drill rig.

Following an inspection conducted by Alliance organiser Glen Williams in July a claim was put to the company on behalf of the marine, deck and drill crews on the rig to compensate for the conditions on board. The Alliance has also called on NOPSA to launch an investigation into these living standards.

The company however has so far resisted all attempts for the matter to be dealt with on behalf of all employees on the rig. Until this meeting Ensco have only been prepared to discuss the concerns of the marine employees. Ensco representatives were told that under no circumstance will a situation that discriminates against a particular section of the workforce be tolerated by the Alliance unions.

This case sends a loud and clear message to the industry that the MUA and the AWU will NOT stand by and allow employers to wedge one group of workers against another. For far too long employers in the offshore drilling industry have deprived workers of their rights to be represented by their union.

As has recently been reported the deck and drill crews on the Ensco 7500 rejected a proposed non union collective agreement put to them by Ensco just before the new IR laws came into effect on July 1. This was a last ditch attempt by this employer to undermine the ability of workers to be represented by their unions.

At the meeting the company were also put on notice that the next step will be to get to the table to discuss a new collective agreement for the drill and deck crews that compares fairly with other conditions of employment in the industry.

The Alliance will ensure that the workforce is fully involved in the process through elected workplace representatives.

The MUA-AWU Offshore Alliance is YOUR voice!!

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