



MEDIA RELEASE

UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1005 WILL BE HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE

**Re: U.S. Steel's Removal of Coke
For Production to U.S.**

***THURSDAY, MARCH 17th, 2011
@ 3:30 p.m.***

USW Local 1005 is calling a press conference on Thursday, March 17 to address reports indicating that U.S. Steel has ordered the freighters "Atlantic Erie" and "Laurentien," both owned by Canada Steamship Lines, to come to Hamilton beginning March 24 to load 44,000 tons of metallurgical coke. This Stelco produced-coke is normally completely consumed in steelmaking at Hamilton Works. There are some 200,000 tons of coke sitting in Hamilton with a sale value of some \$60 million.

The continued production of coke at Hamilton Works even while U.S. Steel shut down steelmaking and shifted production of steel to its plants in the U.S. was accepted by Local 1005 in consideration for the well-being of the coke ovens. U.S. Steel should be denounced for attempting to take advantage of Local 1005's concern for Stelco's equipment by removing this valuable commodity from Hamilton for use in its U.S. plants. U.S. Steel should bargain in good faith with Canadian steelworkers, sign a collective agreement with Local 1005 without extorting pension concessions, and produce steel in Hamilton according to its legal commitments to the people of Canada.

This provocation also complicates the environmental reality that the production of coke is the most polluting aspect of blast furnace steelmaking. U.S. Steel seems fine with polluting Hamilton and then slapping the city in the face by having the coke removed to add value through steelmaking in the United States. This reeks of a subservient colonial relationship that is unacceptable to Canadians.

Even as steelmaking has rebounded along with steel prices, U.S. Steel is telling Canadians that it refuses to recognize the pension rights of steelworkers that it inherited with its purchase of Stelco and will continue its campaign of extortion until Canadians submit to its dictate. This is the ugly face of monopoly right and must not pass. The people of Hamilton are faced with the necessity to rally together to prevent the removal of Stelco coke from their city.

***Governments must be accountable to the people and public right
And not to U.S. Steel and its monopoly right.***

**LOCATION:
350 KENILWORTH AVENUE N HAMILTON -
EDUCATION CENTRE**

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C.O.P.E. 343/lic