

# Unemployed engineering construction workers demand the right to work

## Why we are protesting

Here, at Staythorpe power station, Alstom has sub-contracted two overseas companies to carry out construction work on the site. Unite believes that the two overseas companies have refused to accept applications for work from UK workers. Alstom themselves intend to utilise 250 overseas workers on the project.

With hundreds of skilled workers who traditionally work in the engineering construction industry now unemployed, **THIS CANNOT BE RIGHT**. All skilled UK workers are asking for is the right to be considered for skilled work on this construction project.

## Employers attempting to wreck our agreement?

The National Agreement for the Engineering Construction Industry has served the industry well since 1981, minimising disputes and improving the health and safety record of a dangerous industry. The spirit and intent of the agreement is to employ UK workers in the first instance. It now appears to be the intention of certain employers to wreck that agreement by having a deliberate policy of not employing UK workers.

The government has poured billions of pounds into the economy in an attempt at preventing unemployment reaching the levels seen in the early eighties. This strategy depends on employers playing their part, the energy industry is owned by foreign multinationals that have no qualms about taking government and the consumer's money on the one hand and making workers redundant on the other. Apart from the Olympics, engineering construction is the only sector of the construction industry with a visible workload going forward. Staythorpe, although the most prominent, is not the only site where employers are refusing to employ local workers. Our economy will be damaged by the failure of Alstom and its ilk to employ British workers.

## We call on the government and employers to act and right this wrong

The industry's unions will not stand by and allow our members to languish on the dole while there is work in the UK. We have not sought this fight; the employers leave us no choice other than to defend our members' livelihoods. Any German, French or any other overseas worker would expect the same.

## Be in no doubt we will defend our members' right to work

**THE LAW WILL NOT ALLOW US INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

**WE CAN DEMONSTRATE AND PROTEST**

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