

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

Amicus Section

Network Rail

Dear Colleagues,

Joint Working Party

On the 5th August 2008, John Kelly, Unite Rail Organiser and I met with Unite Network Rail representatives to update them on the JWP (or should I say the latest breakdown of negotiations) and to seek their views on how Unite should proceed.

I can report that the Representatives endorsed Unites' stand of not calling for industrial action whilst there is no threat of imposition from your employer. This position will be reviewed in full consultation with the Unite Representatives and Membership as future developments unfold.

Since the aforementioned meeting the RMT have given notice of a 4 day strike - 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th August. NWR management have reiterated that they will not make any concessions whilst the threat of strike action remains. Unites' advice to members during this period remains that, members should work normally and remain sympathetic towards colleagues who are on strike. Under no circumstances, if you are approached, must Unite members undertake any duties which are outside their normal job or role.

There are no further meetings planned with Network Rail and it is difficult to envisage any progress whilst there is no common ground between the parties. Unite Representatives and I however, must continue to prepare as if the process is moving forward, should the situation change with the JWP then we will advise you accordingly.

Neither Unite Representatives nor I can assume what our members think, so with this in mind I will be forwarding to all members a list of proposals regarding working practices that Network Rail have tabled for discussion. Please take some time to understand some of these issues and feedback your opinions to your representatives.

Yours Fraternally,



Mick Stevens
INDUSTRIAL OFFICER FOR RAIL