# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD DIVISION OF JUDGES ATLANTA BRANCH OFFICE

CATERPILLAR INC.<sup>1</sup>

and

CASE 30-CA-64314

UNITED STEEL, PAPER AND FORESTRY, RUBBER, MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO/CLC

Benjamin Mandelman and Rachel A. Centinario, Esqs., for the Acting General Counsel.

Joseph J. Torres, Derek G. Barella and Elizabeth J. Kappakas, Esqs. (Winston & Strawn, LLP), for the Respondent.

Marianne Goldstein Robbins, Esq. (Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen, Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, S.C.), for the Charging Party.

#### DECISION

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

ROBERT A. RINGLER, Administrative Law Judge. This case was tried in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on March 21 and 22, 2012. On September 12, 2011,<sup>2</sup> the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO/CLC (the Union) filed the underlying charge. The resulting complaint alleged that Caterpillar Inc. (Caterpillar or the Respondent) violated Section 8(a)(1) and (5) of the National Labor Relations Act (the Act) by refusing to grant a non-employee Union representative access to its Milwaukee, Wisconsin manufacturing facility, in order to conduct a health and safety inspection.

<sup>1</sup> Respondent's correct legal name appears as amended at the hearing.

All dates herein are in 2011, unless otherwise stated.

On the entire record, including my observation of the demeanor of the witnesses, and after thoroughly considering the parties' briefs, I make the following

## **Findings of Fact**

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#### I. Jurisdiction

At all material times, Caterpillar has manufactured mining equipment at its South Milwaukee, Wisconsin plant (the facility). Annually, in conducting its operations, it sells and ships goods valued in excess of \$50,000 directly from its facility to customers located outside of the State of Wisconsin. Based upon the foregoing, it admits, and I find, that it is an employer engaged in commerce, within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6) and (7) of the Act. It also admits, and I find, that the Union is a labor organization, within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act.

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### II. Alleged Unfair Labor Practice

#### A. Introduction

The core facts involved herein are essentially undisputed. Caterpillar manufactures strip mining equipment at its South Milwaukee facility. The production of such equipment involves large-scale metal cutting, fabrication, machining, welding, painting and assembly. The facility, which is roughly 5 "city blocks" long, has been in business since the early 1900s. Caterpillar very recently purchased the facility from Bucyrus International Inc. (Bucyrus) on July 9.

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# B. Union's Representation of the Unit

Since 1986, the Union, and its constituent entity, Local 1343, have served as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of the following appropriate unit (the unit):

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All production and maintenance employees employed . . . at . . . [the] South Milwaukee, Wisconsin facility, including all individuals working as powerhouse employees, lead men, but excluding general administrative, office and confidential employees, garage and laboratory employees, technically trained engineers, draftsmen, and all miscellaneous engineering department employees, clerical employees in stock, stores, and production departments (which departments include shop clerks, expeditors, timekeepers), industrial and standards engineers, registered nurses, and all guards and supervisors as defined by the Act. <sup>5</sup>

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(GC Exh. 26). Caterpillar and Bucyrus, its predecessor, have continuously recognized the Union and Local 1343 as the unit's exclusive collective-bargaining representative. This recognition has been embodied in successive collective-bargaining agreements, the most recent of which extends from December 9, 2008 through April 30, 2013. (Id.).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> It produces large trucks, which carry away rock and soil that is unearthed during strip mining procedures.

<sup>4</sup> Products are shipped in sub-assembled pieces, which are subsequently assembled at the mining site.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> There are approximately 900 employees in the unit.

## C. September 8 Fatality

On September 8, in the afternoon, Jeffrey Smith, a unit employee, was crushed to death by a multi-ton crawler,<sup>6</sup> while working in the facility's welding area. The fatality was promptly reported to the Milwaukee Police Department (the Police) and the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), who each commenced investigations.

Kevin Jaskie, Local 1343 President and unit employee, testified that he also promptly reported Smith's fatality to the Union's Emergency Response Team (ERT), which is a squad that provides accident investigation services to constituent locals.<sup>7</sup> See (GC Exh. 27). He explained that he contacted the ERT because Local 1343's staff was unqualified to independently investigate the fatality.<sup>8</sup> He stated that, shortly thereafter, ERT member Sharon Thompson committed to traveling to the facility and conducting an investigation.<sup>9</sup> He added that he subsequently relayed Local 1343's plan to have the ERT conduct an onsite investigation to Regional Manager Rod Bolhous, who pledged Caterpillar's full cooperation.<sup>10</sup>

Later that evening, Caterpillar conducted a re-enactment of the fatal accident. Although the re-enactment was witnessed by corporate officials, OSHA, the Police and County Medical Examiner, Local 1343's highest officials were not informed and were, consequently, absent.<sup>11</sup>

## D. September 9 Events

On September 9, ERT member Thompson arrived at the facility, in order to conduct her onsite investigation into the fatality. She stated that, after describing the purpose of her visit to Caterpillar's representatives, she was denied entry by Bolhous and other officials.<sup>12</sup>

# E. September 16 Letter

On September 16, 2011, Caterpillar sent the following letter to the Union:

[Concerning] . . . the Union's request to access the . . . facility . . . in order to conduct . . . a "joint investigation" of the workplace accident that occurred . . . on September 8 . . . . (1) the Company was cooperating . . . with OSHA's and local law enforcement's investigation of the incident . . .; (2) our current collective bargaining agreement does not provide for an additional joint investigation . . . .; (3) in light of the ongoing investigations by OSHA and law enforcement, the Company [does] . . . not believe an additional joint investigation would be productive, particularly given the facts that the facility is operating again

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The crawler, which weighed 90,000 pounds, is similar to the track propulsion device on bulldozers and tanks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> In 2011, the ERT investigated 39 fatalities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Michael Dobrzynski, Local 1343 Vice-President and David Uebele, Chief Steward corroborated this testimony.

Thompson, a Resource Technician Health and Safety Specialist, is assigned to the Union's Pittsburgh, PA headquarters. She has extensive experience in accident investigation and industrial safety. (GC Exh. 29).

Dobrzynski corroborated this account.

<sup>11</sup> Chief Steward Uebele was the highest ranking Local 1343 official in attendance.

Bolhous stated that he reversed his position on ERT access, after he realized that, although Bucyrus would have left this matter to his discretion, Caterpillar required him to seek corporate approval before granting such access.

and the equipment at issue has since been moved (i.e., the "scene" of the incident is no longer in the same condition as at the time of the incident). . . .

(G.C. Exh. 3) (emphasis added).

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## F. Ongoing Correspondence and Confidentiality Agreement Covering DVD Footage

The September 16 letter triggered a series of letters between the parties, which clarified their respective stances on access. On September 26, Union counsel explained the ERT's goals. ((GC Exh. 4) ("Union has requested access . . . in order to understand what went wrong and to address through the Health and Safety Committee or the grievance procedure means of preventing any similar accident in the future."). On October 10, Caterpillar's counsel re-denied access, but, offered to provide DVD footage of the accident re-enactment, subject to the negotiation of a confidentiality agreement. (GC Exh. 5). On October 17, Union counsel re-requested access and indicated that, "the . . . 'reenactment' was not adequate and does not obviate the need for an onsite investigation." (GC Exh. 6). On November 15, Caterpillar's counsel explained:

Caterpillar considers its manufacturing and operational processes to be proprietary and confidential business information.

(GC Exh. 7). On November 22, Union counsel replied:

[T]he Union is willing to enter into a confidentiality agreement, however, receipt of the video will not take the place of an onsite investigation . . . .

(GC Exh. 8). Between December 8 and late-January 2012, the parties negotiated a confidentiality agreement, which resulted in the production of the DVD. (GC Exhs. 9-10, 21-24)

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#### G. January 19, 2012 Information Request

On January 19, 2012, Jaskie sent an e-mail to Labor Relations Manager John Hubert, which requested certain additional information concerning the fatality:

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- ... [T]he investigatory file prepared by the local law enforcement . . .
- Photographs taken . . . during the post-accident investigation.
- Video recording of the post-accident reenactment.
- Copies of the old standard work order for the crawler frame turning procedure, and the new procedure developed by the committee.

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(GC Exh. 12).

## H. Actions Regarding the Union's January 19, 2012 Information Request

On February 14, 2012, Caterpillar responded:

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1. Enclosed are . . . two video recordings . . . of the reenactment of the crawler frame turning operation that took place as part of the post-accident investigation on September 8, 2011. These video recordings are produced subject to the Confidential Information Agreement . . . . [See (GC Exh. 32).]<sup>13</sup>

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2. [E]nclosed is . . . the investigation file . . . compiled by the local law enforcement officers . . . This is a complete copy of the file, . . . with the exception of copies of certain Standard-Work protocols . . . which we have removed from the copy that is enclosed with this letter. [W]e are willing to produce these Standard Work protocols . . . subject to the parties' . . . agreement concerning confidentiality.

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In addition to the materials produced with this letter, we . . . are prepared to produce . . . a number of additional materials that the Company considers to be confidential. Caterpillar's counsel has proposed . . . that the enclosed Confidential Information Agreement also apply to these additional materials . . . . These additional materials that are ready to be produced to you are . . . :

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1. Copies of the Standard Work protocols . . . in effect as of September 8, 2011 (including those that were included in the police investigation file), as well as the Standard Work protocols that have since been revised and reissued . . . .

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2. Copies of all photographs taken by the Company during the post-accident investigation on September 8, 2011....

(GC Exh. 14); see also (GC Exh. 15). The parties, thereafter, entered into another confidentiality agreement covering the Standard Work protocols and photos, and these materials were, thereafter, produced to the Union. (GC Exhs. 16-19, 25).

Following the record's closure, the parties filed a joint motion to reopen the record, in order to receive JT Exhs 1-2 into evidence. The motion is denied. First, unlike GC Exh. 32, which is a readable DVD, JT Exhs. 1-2 are neither readable, when played on a standard DVD player, nor readable when played on standard computer applications (e.g. Windows Media Player and Quick Time Player). Second, the parties failed to demonstrate that JT Exhs. 1-2 constituted "newly discovered evidence," which would warrant reopening the record. See *Planned Building Services*, 347 NLRB 670, 670 fn. 2 (2006). To the contrary, their joint motion stated that JT Exhs. 1-2 are "copies of the recordings that Caterpillar produced to the Union on January 28, 2012 and February 14, 2012," which, thus, was not "newly discovered evidence" that would merit reopening the record.

# I. Non-Employees Accessing the Facility

Jaskie testified that, before the fatality, Caterpillar and its predecessor, Bucyrus, frequently allowed visitors to enter the facility. He recollected: Union representatives being admitted for labor relations matters; public groups touring the facility; a political dinner connected to a mining bill; Senator John McCain visiting during the 2008 Presidential campaign; Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett campaigning there; and periodic high school recruiting tours.

Bolhous acknowledged that Caterpillar conducts customer, employee and student tours at the facility. He recounted politicians and civic groups periodically visiting. He stated that neither the product line made at the facility, nor the underlying manufacturing procedures, have changed significantly since Caterpillar purchased the facility from Bucyrus, and reported that the risks associated with outsiders entering the facility have not changed a great deal over the years. He noted that the area where the fatality occurred is often viewed during tours.

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### J. March 8, 2012 - OSHA Citation

On March 8, 2012, OSHA issued a citation to Caterpillar for failing to "furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were . . . likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees from crashing hazards." (GC Exh. 28). The citation required Caterpillar to, inter alia, pay a \$7,000 fine. (Id.).

# K. Parties' Positions Concerning Access

## 1. Union's Purpose in Seeking Access

The Union asserted that, absent Caterpillar granting it access to the facility, the ERT was unable to complete an adequate investigation concerning the fatality. Thompson explained that, although Caterpillar ultimately provided the Union with limited information about the accident (i.e. a short DVD recording of its operations, photos and other documents), these materials were deficient. She added that such information paled in comparison to the data, which she would have derived during an onsite observation. She noted that the DVD recording was deficient because it: failed to cover several relevant vantage points; did not sufficiently demonstrate depth, distance, sound, material properties and other key characteristics; and omitted a panoramic view of the relevant welding operations. She indicated that the Police's investigatory report similarly failed to identify the root cause of the fatality, and Local 1343's staff was unqualified to perform an independent accident investigation. She stated that, in spite of Caterpillar's lack of cooperation, she prepared a report, which discussed the accident, but, failed to reach any dispositive conclusions regarding causation. (GC Exh. 30). She noted that Caterpillar was the first company, which refused to grant her access following a fatality.

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<sup>14</sup> Caterpillar failed to produce an expert, or other witness, who refuted her claim that an onsite visit was required.

She estimated that the DVD recording was approximately a minute in length.

She acknowledged, on cross-examination, that Jim Novak, another Union official, prepared a report describing the accident and identifying potential causes. See (R. Exh. 1). She contended, however, that his report's findings were partially unsupported, given that he never performed an onsite inspection. She added that, even after reviewing Novak's report, she still needed to perform an onsite inspection.

Thompson contended that, if she had been granted access, she would have carefully studied the crane operations connected to the fatality. She asserted that her investigation would not have affected workplace operations, and would have only been a couple of hours in length. She related that she would have obtained permission before photographing the worksite, in order to protect Caterpillar's proprietary interests. She noted that ERT investigatory reports are generally not made public, and are solely submitted to the local union and employer. She averred that the ERT has often successfully determined causation.

# 2. Caterpillar's Rationale

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Caterpillar offered two reasons for its denial of access. First, it asserted that the Union had previously received extensive materials connected to the fatality, which rendered the access request redundant. (GC Exh. 3). Second, it contended that it denied access, in order to maintain the confidentiality of its manufacturing procedures. Labor Relations Manager Hubert explained that Caterpillar was concerned that, if the Union received access, it might have shared Caterpillar's manufacturing secrets with Joy Global Surface Mining, which is one of its main competitors in the strip mining market. He added that Joy Global Surface Mining was of particular concern because it is also located in Milwaukee and its employees are represented by the Union. Bolhous added that specialized welding techniques are utilized in the area where the fatality occurred, which, if leaked, would benefit Caterpillar's competition.

# III. Analysis

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Caterpillar violated Section 8(a)(5), when it failed to grant the Union access to the facility in connection with the September 8 fatality.<sup>17</sup> Generally, an employer must provide requested information to a union representing its employees, whenever there is a probability that such information is necessary and relevant to its representational duties. See *NLRB v. Acme Industrial Co.*, 385 U.S. 432 (1967); *NLRB v. Truitt Mfg. Co.*, 351 U.S. 149 (1956). This duty encompasses the obligation to provide relevant bargaining and grievance-processing materials. See *Postal Service*, 337 NLRB 820, 822 (2002). The standard for relevancy is a "liberal discovery-type standard," and the sought-after evidence should solely have a bearing upon the disputed issue. See *Pfizer, Inc.*, 268 NLRB 916 (1984).

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Information, which concerns unit terms and conditions of employment is "so intrinsic to the core of the employer-employee relationship" that it is presumptively relevant. *York International Corp.*, 290 NLRB 438 (1988). Concerning health and safety, the Board has held:

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Health and safety matters regarding the unit employees' workplaces are of vital interest to the employees and are, thus, generally relevant and necessary for the union to carry out its bargaining obligations . . . . Few matters can be of greater legitimate concern.

Detroit Newspaper Agency, 317 NLRB 1071 (1995); see also American National Can Co., 293 NLRB 901, 904 (1989) (health and safety matters are mandatory subjects of bargaining). When

<sup>17</sup> These allegations are listed under paras. 7 and 8 of the complaint.

material is presumptively relevant, the burden shifts to the company to establish a lack of relevance. *Newspaper Guild Local 95 (San Diego) v. NLRB*, 548 F. 2d 863, 867 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1977).

In information cases where a union seeks access to an employer's plant, the Board employs a two-part balancing test, which balances the right of employees to be responsibly represented by their union, against the right of the employer to control its property and ensure that its operations are unhindered. *Holyoke Water Power Co.*, 273 NLRB 1369, 1370 (1985). In applying this test, the Board has frequently found that a union's right to access a plant to inspect or survey for hazardous health and safety conditions outweighs the employer's property interests. See, e.g., *C.C.E., Inc.*, 318 NLRB 977 (1995); *Gilberton Coal Co.*, 291 NLRB 344, 347 (1988); *Hercules, Inc.*, 281 NLRB 961, 969 (1986). Regarding the relatively unparalleled value of an onsite health and safety inspection, the Board has held that:

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[T]here can be no adequate substitute for the Union representative's direct observation of the plant equipment and conditions, and employee operations and working conditions, in order to evaluate . . . safety concerns . . . .

C.C.E., Inc., supra, 318 NLRB at 978; see also ASARCO, Inc., 276 NLRB 1367, 1370 (1985).

20 In applying the *Holyoke* balancing test, I find that the Union's right to access the facility outweighed Caterpillar's property interests. In weighing the Union's interests, I note that the Board heavily favors access rights, where such rights are being exercised by a union in order to promote a unit's legitimate health and safety interests. The Union herein critically needed to enter the facility, in order to directly observe the manufacturing area, where a fatality occurred. 25 A conclusive finding on causation would have permitted the Union to enter into an intelligent dialogue with Caterpillar regarding ways to enhance workplace safety, and could have ultimately prevented another senseless tragedy. Given that Caterpillar, OSHA and the Police failed to pinpoint an exact cause behind the fatality, the Union maintained a heightened interest in the ERT performing a comprehensive onsite inspection. Additionally, Thompson persuasively demonstrated that the accident investigation materials that Caterpillar previously submitted to the 30 Union were deficient, and an onsite survey remained necessary.<sup>18</sup> The Union, as a result, maintained a substantial representational interest in conducting an onsite inspection, and had no alternative methodology to obtain comparable safety-related information regarding the fatality.

In assessing Caterpillar's interests, I am mindful that Caterpillar held a significant competing interest in protecting against the potential dissemination of its confidential manufacturing procedures, as well as an interest in preventing visitors from interfering with its operations. In finding that the Union's access rights outweighed these competing interests, I relied upon the following factors: (1) Caterpillar failed to carry its burden of showing that there were alternative means available to the Union, which would have permitted it to effectively represent the unit on this key safety issue; (2) Thompson, an experienced ERT member, credibly testified that she would not have interfered with production during her survey; (3) Caterpillar's property interest was lessened to a degree by a considerable history of permitting non-employee

While Caterpillar provided photographs, reports, Standard Work protocols and DVD evidence, this material is a poor substitute for the information that might have been obtained during an onsite survey. For example, the DVD (i.e. GC Exh. 32) is two dimensional, and limited to the angles, distance and duration that the non-expert filmmaker considered relevant, and is, thus, a poor substitute for a three dimensional onsite inspection.

visitors to access the facility (e.g., politicians, civic groups, high school students and customers);<sup>19</sup> and (4) Caterpillar's interest in protecting its confidential manufacturing procedures could have been addressed by negotiating a separate confidentiality agreement with the Union concerning the inspection. Moreover, given that the parties successfully negotiated similar agreements regarding the DVD, Workplace protocols and other documents, there is no reason why an analogous agreement could not have been negotiated regarding access.

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The *Holyoke* balancing test, thus, tips in favor of access. Accordingly, the parties shall bargain in good faith concerning appropriate safeguards, which will dually protect Caterpillar's confidentiality concerns, while also facilitating a comprehensive onsite safety survey. See *Roseburg Forest Products Co.*, 331 NLRB 999, 1003 (2000).

#### **Conclusions of Law**

- 15 1. Caterpillar is an employer engaged in commerce within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6) and (7) of the Act.
  - 2. The Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act.
- 20 3. The Union is, and, at all material times, was the exclusive bargaining representative for the following appropriate unit:

All production and maintenance employees employed at Caterpillar's South Milwaukee, Wisconsin facility, including all individuals working as powerhouse employees, lead men, but excluding general administrative, office and confidential employees, garage and laboratory employees, technically trained engineers, draftsmen, and all miscellaneous engineering department employees, clerical employees in stock, stores, and production departments (which departments include shop clerks, expeditors, timekeepers), industrial and standards engineers, registered nurses, and all guards and supervisors as defined by the Act.

- 4. Caterpillar violated Section 8(a)(1) and (5) of the Act by denying the Union's request to access its facility, in order to conduct a health and safety inspection, which was relevant to the discharge of its representational duties, without first bargaining in good faith with the Union concerning appropriate confidentiality safeguards associated with such access.
- 5. The unfair labor practice set forth above affects commerce within the meaning of Section 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

#### Remedy

Having found that Caterpillar committed an unfair labor practice, it must be ordered to cease and desist and to take certain affirmative action designed to effectuate the policies of the

Although most of these visitors entered under Bucyrus' regime, Bolhous credibly testified that the proprietary risks and potential interferences associated with such visits have not changed since Caterpillar's takeover.

Act. As stated, it must grant the Union access to its facility, subject to certain limitations. Specifically, it must bargain in good faith with the Union over its legitimate confidentiality concerns and reduce the resulting agreement to writing, prior to granting such access.<sup>20</sup> It shall also distribute appropriate remedial notices electronically via email, intranet, internet, or other appropriate electronic means to unit employees at the facility, in addition to the traditional physical posting of paper notices. See *J Picini Flooring*, 356 NLRB No. 9 (2010).

On these findings of fact and conclusions of law, and on the entire record, I issue the following recommended<sup>21</sup>

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#### **ORDER**

The Respondent, Caterpillar Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, its officers, agents, successors, and assigns, shall

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#### 1. Cease and desist from

- a. Failing and refusing to bargain in good faith with the Union as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of employees in the unit described below by denying its request to access the facility, in order to conduct a health and safety inspection.
  - b. In any like or related manner interfering with, restraining, or coercing employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed them by Section 7 of the Act.
- Take the following affirmative action necessary to effectuate the policies of the Act
  - a. Upon request, bargain collectively in good faith with the Union as the exclusive representative of employees in the following appropriate unit concerning their request to access the facility to conduct a health and safety inspection, embody any resulting understanding in a signed agreement and, thereafter, comply with the terms of such agreement:

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All production and maintenance employees employed at Caterpillar's South Milwaukee, Wisconsin facility, including all individuals working as powerhouse employees, lead men, but excluding general administrative, office and confidential employees, garage and laboratory employees, technically trained engineers, draftsmen, and all miscellaneous engineering department employees, clerical employees in stock, stores, and production departments (which departments include shop clerks, expeditors, timekeepers), industrial and standards engineers, registered nurses, and all guards and supervisors as defined by the Act.

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The parties could expeditiously amend their earlier confidentiality agreements to address this issue.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> If no exceptions are filed as provided by Sec. 102.46 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, the findings, conclusions, and recommended Order shall, as provided in Sec. 102.48 of the Rules, be adopted by the Board and all objections to them shall be deemed waived for all purposes.

- b. Within 14 days after service by the Region, physically post at its Milwaukee, WI facility, and electronically send and post via email, intranet, internet, or other electronic means to its unit employees who were employed at its Milwaukee, WI facility at any time since September 9, 2011, copies of the attached Notice marked "Appendix."<sup>22</sup> Copies of the Notice, on forms provided by the Regional Director for Region 30, after being signed by the Caterpillar's authorized representative, shall be physically posted by Caterpillar and maintained for 60 consecutive days in conspicuous places including all places where Notices to employees are customarily posted. Reasonable steps shall be taken by Caterpillar to ensure that the Notices are not altered, defaced, or covered by any other material. In the event that, during the pendency of these proceedings, Caterpillar has gone out of business or closed the facility involved in these proceedings, Caterpillar shall duplicate and mail, at its own expense, a copy of the Notice to all current employees and former employees employed by it at the facility at any time since September 9, 2011.
- 15 c. Within 21 days after service by the Region, file with the Regional Director a sworn certification of a responsible official on a form provided by the Region attesting to the steps that it has taken to comply.

Dated Washington, D.C. September 5, 2012

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Robert A. Ringler Administrative Law Judge

If this Order is enforced by a judgment of a United States Court of Appeals, the words in the notice reading "Posted by Order of the National Labor Relations Board" shall read "Posted Pursuant to a Judgment of the United States Court of Appeals Enforcing an Order of the National Labor Relations Board."

#### **APPENDIX**

# NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES Posted by Order of the National Labor Relations Board An Agency of the United States Government

The National Labor Relations Board has found that we violated Federal labor law and has ordered us to post and obey this notice.

## FEDERAL LAW GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO

Form, join, or assist a union Choose representatives to bargain with us on your behalf Act together with other employees for your benefit and protection Choose not to engage in any of these protected activities

**WE WILL NOT** fail or refuse to bargain in good faith with United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, AFL-CIO/CLC (the Union) as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of employees in the bargaining unit described below by refusing to grant it access to our facility, in order to conduct a health and safety inspection.

**WE WILL NOT** in any like or related manner interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of the rights set forth above.

**WE WILL,** upon request, bargain collectively in good faith with the Union as the exclusive representative of employees in the following appropriate unit concerning their request to access the facility in order conduct a health and safety inspection, and, thereafter, comply with the terms of such agreement:

All production and maintenance employees employed at the South Milwaukee, Wisconsin facility, including all individuals working as powerhouse employees, lead men, but excluding general administrative, office and confidential employees, garage and laboratory employees, technically trained engineers, draftsmen, and all miscellaneous engineering department employees, clerical employees in stock, stores, and production departments (which departments include shop clerks, expeditors, timekeepers), industrial and standards engineers, registered nurses, and all guards and supervisors as defined by the Act.

<b>CATERPILLAR INC.</b>
(Employer)

Dated:	By:		
		(Representative)	(Title)

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent Federal agency created in 1935 to enforce the National Labor Relations Act. It conducts secret-ballot elections to determine whether employees want union representation and it investigates and remedies unfair labor practices by employers and unions. To find out more about your rights under the Act and how to file a charge or election petition, you may speak confidentially to any agent with the Board's Regional Office set forth below. You may also obtain information from the Board's website: <a href="https://www.nlrb.gov.">www.nlrb.gov.</a>

310 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700, Milwaukee, WI 53203-2211 (414) 297-3861, Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NOTICE AND MUST NOT BE DEFACED BY ANYONE

THIS NOTICE MUST REMAIN POSTED FOR 60 CONSECUTIVE DAYS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING AND MUST NOT BE ALTERED, DEFACED, OR COVERED BY ANY OTHER MATERIAL. ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE OR COMPLIANCE WITH ITS PROVISIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE REGIONAL OFFICE'S COMPLIANCE OFFICER, (414) 297-3819.