

Corporate News Releases



Newsroom

Friday, August 22, 2014

Port Statement on Terminal 6 Work Reassignment

What is happening?

The Port of Portland has elected to return refrigerated container work at marine Terminal 6 to International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) members in 30 days. The IBEW performed this work since 1974, but in 2012 the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) claimed jurisdiction and the Port awarded them temporary assignment to these jobs which involve the plugging and unplugging of refrigerated containers. The hope was that lagging productivity would increase at the terminal.

Today's action is in response to continuing productivity issues, with output well-below historical levels. ILWU performance has resulted in recent downtime and delays that threaten the ability of the facility to meet the needs of regional and global businesses. In addition, the reassignment from IBEW to ILWU has significantly increased the cost of reefer operations at T-6.

Statement from Bill Wyatt

"The ability to load and unload containers at Oregon's only container terminal is crucial to all of the people whose livelihood is connected with working at or providing services to T6 and those who depend on the facility to efficiently ship products worldwide.

With Hanjin actively evaluating the economic viability of calling Portland, our priority is to retain existing service and keep cargo moving – hundreds of local businesses and thousands of jobs depend on it.

Although these are not actions we had expected or hoped for, the circumstances necessitate a change of course. Sitting idly is not an option. I have spoken with Governor Kitzhaber and have his full support."