

BMWED NEWS RELEASE

Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division - IBT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southfield, MI--The Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED) ratified its first contract with VAE Nortrak North America, Inc. in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Nortrak is a company that manufactures and fabricates railway components and supplies products for many railroads throughout North America, including Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad in the vicinity of Cheyenne, Wyoming. BMWED is a member of the Rail Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters who represent railroad and rail-related workers throughout the United States.

BMWED was certified as the elected representative by the National Labor Relations Board on April 23, 2004. After more than a year of negotiations, a contract ratification ballot was finally cast on June 27 and 28, 2005. The contract was ratified by 93% of the employees casting their ballot, approving the first collective bargaining agreement ever at the Nortrak plant in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

BMWED President Freddie Simpson said, "This is a historic moment in our history and represents the first time the BMWED has organized outside of the Railway Labor Act. We commend those employees at Nortrak, and especially the members of the Organizing and Bargaining Committee for stepping forward and making the decision to unite together to improve working conditions in Cheyenne, Wyoming."

BMWED Vice President Rick Wehrli concurred, "I am impressed and excited that the employees at Nortrak have stepped forward and made this decision. It brings a spirit of unity and hope to the employees at Nortrak."

Lead union bargainer General Chairman David Tanner said, "I am very pleased with the choice that Nortrak employees have made in voting to be organized by the BMWED and in ratifying the proposed contract. We look forward to representing the employees and working with Nortrak management to improve working conditions and profitability."

Integral in-plant members of the Organizing and Bargaining Committee, Rick Kearney and Tim Hernandez are very pleased that the contract was ratified and feel this is a step in the right direction for all working families in the state of Wyoming.

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