Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

BMWED SYSTEM FEDERATIONS AND UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD ANNOUNCE PILOT SAFETY PROGRAM

July 13, 2009

Omaha, NE – In a joint announcement today the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED-IBT) and the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) announced a new pilot safety program agreement. The intent of the agreement is to encourage BMWED-represented employees to report close calls and personal injuries without fear of discipline.

Union Pacific and the BMWED Unified System Division, Pacific Federation and Mountain & Plains Federation entered into an agreement on June 1, 2009, designed to encourage a safer work environment by providing alternatives to discipline, while providing a more comprehensive analysis of incidents and injuries. This agreement will require the full cooperation of those employees involved in an accident in exchange for the right to opt out of the current discipline process. The agreement has a six-month implementation period and will take effect Dec. 1, 2009.

"The BMWED looks forward to working with UP to get this program in full swing. An agreement designed to reduce injuries and accidents – while providing a method that allows our members an alternative to discipline – is a win-win situation for both UP and the BMWED," said BMWED National Division President Freddie Simpson.

"At UP, we believe safety is best achieved by employees who are motivated to work safely themselves and who also share responsibility for their coworkers' safety," said David Connell, vice president-Engineering. "Although rule compliance is the foundation of workplace safety, we believe this pilot program will take us beyond rule compliance to more of a team approach to identify and eliminate risk. We welcome this partnership with the BMWED."

If the two-year program proves to be a success as expected, it may be extended and expanded to other UP properties.

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