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Ocean Updates

BCMEA–ILWU Bargaining Update

On Friday, the BC Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) and International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 514 participated in a case management call to discuss continuation of the Canada Industrial Relations Board hearing to address the union's DP World (Canada) Inc. pay and manning proposal, which the BCMEA alleges to be illegal, constituting the union bargaining in bad faith. The hearing will continue from September 11 to 17.

The BCMEA filed an additional bad faith bargaining complaint last week regarding ILWU Local 514 bargaining committee's recent conduct. That complaint has been placed in abeyance pending adjudication of the first complaint.

At the time of writing, neither party had issued 72-hour notice of strike or lockout, nor have there been any labour disruptions.

Possible U.S. Port Strike Could Back Up Goods for Months

A potential strike at U.S. seaports on the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico could back up cargo there for weeks or even months, shipping experts said on Wednesday.

Retailers like Walmart and other importers have been rushing goods in ahead of the September 30 expiration of the union contract covering some 45,000 dockworkers at three dozen seaports from Texas to Maine.

Their goal? To land cargo in the U.S. before October 1, when the International Longshoremen's Association representing those workers has vowed to strike if a new contract is not in place.

Analysts at Sea-Intelligence, a Copenhagen-based shipping advisory firm, estimated that it could take anywhere from four to six days to clear the backlog from a one-day strike. "This means that a (one)-week strike in the beginning of October would not be cleared until mid-November," Sea-Intelligence CEO Alan Murphy said in a statement.

A two-week strike could mean that ports would not return to normal operations until 2025, Murphy said.

Read more in an [article from qCaptain](#).

Rail and Truck Updates

Labour Minister Rejects CN Rail's Call for Binding Arbitration as Lockout Looms

Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon has rejected CN Rail's request for binding arbitration in the company's labour dispute with Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) – one week before a lockout could shut down the rail network.

"I would like to clarify that it is your shared responsibility – Canadian National Railway Company and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference – to negotiate in good faith and work diligently towards a new collective agreement," MacKinnon wrote in a letter.

The minister added that federal mediators remain available to both parties as negotiations continue.

Read more in an [article from CBC News](#).

CN Issues Lockout Notice to Teamsters

CN has issued notice to the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) formally advising them of its intention to lockout Canadian TCRC-represented employees on August 22 at 00:01 ET unless an agreement or binding arbitration is achieved before that time.

Despite negotiations over the weekend, no meaningful progress has occurred, and the parties remain very far apart.

Unless there is an immediate and definite resolution to the labour conflict, CN will continue the phased and progressive shutdown of its network, which would culminate in a lockout.

CN must continue with the progressive and planned shutdown of its network, as it remains under the threat of an unpredictable strike notice. This planned shutdown helps to ensure the safety of the communities in which it operates and the safety of its customers' goods, and to optimize the network's recovery following a labour disruption.

Additional embargoes will be issued today, August 19.

Read more in a [press release from CN](#).

CPKC–TCRC Collective Bargaining – August 16 Update

Bargaining between CPKC and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC) Train and Engine (T&E) and Rail Traffic Controller (RCTC) employees was scheduled to continue on Sunday, August 18.

While CPKC continues to move as much freight as possible prior to a potential work stoppage, it is taking steps for a safe and orderly shutdown of railway operations in Canada. In addition to embargos announced previously:

- Effective today, August 19, the embargo will be expanded for all dangerous goods shipments.
- Effective Tuesday, August 20, embargos for all shipments originating in Canada, all shipments originating in the United States destined to Canada, and all carload traffic destined to Canadian interchange.

CPKC is communicating directly with customers as additional embargoes and intermodal terminal restrictions for temperature-controlled containers and other intermodal containers are implemented, as necessary. It is committed to keeping stakeholders updated.

CPKC reiterates its standing offer to resolve this matter through binding arbitration should negotiations be unsuccessful.

Teamsters Issue Strike Notice to CPKC

The Teamsters union has served 72-hours notice to CPKC to withdraw services, to be effective Thursday, August 22 at 0001 Eastern Time, "to protect the TCRC's statutory and Charter protected rights to engage in a lawful strike," said the union in a statement. "We are continuing to bargain with the Company and will remain at the table as long as it takes."

Read more in a [press release from the TCRC](#).