

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

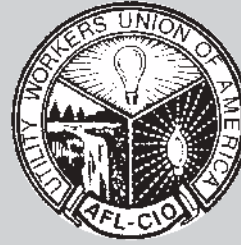
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U.S. Union Urges Opposition to Sale of Essent Milieu to Covanta Energy

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The Utility Workers Union of America is urging shareholders of Essent NV to oppose any sale of Essent Milieu to Covanta Energy, a U.S.-based waste incineration company that is reportedly one of three firms “shortlisted” to acquire Essent’s waste management unit. The second round of bidding in the proposed transaction, valued at an estimated € 1 billion, is due on 22 May 2009.

The U.S. trade union has circulated a dossier this week to Dutch provincial legislators and other shareholders of Essent summarizing the American firm’s violations of environmental, occupational safety, and labour relations standards in the U.S. The UWUA represents workers at Covanta’s waste incinerator in Rochester, Massachusetts.

“Our members at Covanta have considerable experience with Covanta’s anti-social conduct, and we have an obligation to alert Dutch shareholders, trade unionists, and other stakeholders at Essent Milieu to this company’s deplorable record in its home country,” stated Gary P. Sullivan, president of the local branch of the UWUA representing Covanta employees in the U.S.

The European Federation of Public Sector Unions has expressed its support for the U.S. union’s campaign. “Companies in Europe, whether European or not, must respect corporate social responsibility principles, not just in words and on paper but also in practice,” stated Jan Willem Goudriaan, deputy general secretary of the EPSU. “The record of Covanta does not appear very good, as is testified by our American trade union colleagues.”

The UWUA communication to Essent shareholders is available at the union’s website at www.cjcw.org, and at the EPSU website at www.epsu.org/a/5057.

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