
Downsizing deals - ArcelorMittal idles Cleveland plant

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It is reported that the global economic slowdown has temporarily shut down Cleveland's ArcelorMittal Steel Plant. 912 workers were laid off and many came to the union hall to pick up their last paychecks. These are veteran workers, senior most survivors who remain on the job after decades of layoffs reduced the plant workforce.

Some have worked for J&L Steel, which became Republic Steel then LTV Steel, ISG steel, Mittal Steel and eventually ArcelorMittal.

Mr Curtis Ferrell laid off 32 worker said that "They are talking about layoffs until Christmas. I have never been laid off that long."

ArcelorMittal is cutting back global production to 45% of previous levels. All American plants are impacted. Two plants are being permanently shutdown. The intention is to restart Cleveland's plant when the economy rebounds.

Mr Mark Granakis president of Local 979 Steelworkers said that it is confident the plant will reopen. So are other workers. He added that "Hell yes, we're optimistic things will get better."

Three hundred workers remain working at the plant to keep it in shape for restarting, whenever that may be.

(Sourced from www.wkyc.com)

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