

Tariffs, Battery & More

Trump continues to make a lot of noise regarding the implementation of tariffs. Currently he is now stating April 2 as the next date to begin his misguided strategy. Although most agree this would hurt both countries Trump continues to rule with his ego and keep manufacturing guessing on what is coming next. Canadians buy over 2 million vehicles a year, hundreds of thousands more than Canada exports. The USA is already in a favourable position export wise with Canada, yet Trump seems intent on decimating the Canadian Auto Industry.

With Trump at the helm, it is very difficult right now for GM to announce any new investment outside of the USA. This is another factor as we look for long term volume increases for our plant. There are many, many meetings ongoing right now involving our industry and our plant. We need to sell approximately 1000 units per month to keep one shift steadily working. Currently, we are not near that number.

We have been through a lot over the past 5 years, and we have done everything we could to bring full time employment to everyone. Right now, meetings are being held that will affect our plant, and for that reason we have agreed to buy our members a bit more time. We believe the next 2-4 weeks will bring us a much clearer picture of what is coming for each of us. For that reason, we have agreed to continue to rotate the battery production schedule for an additional 6 weeks. This gives each shift in battery 4 weeks of work since the start of the year. We need to be clear, things could change in our production schedule. GM could take us down for a week, two weeks, or more. This schedule will be followed by battery members for the next 6 weeks – if there is down time, we simply take that week out but we stick with this schedule.

Mike Van Boekel will be headed to Windsor/Detroit on Wednesday afternoon to join Lana Payne and Unifor National officials as well as some other Auto Plant Chairs to meet with the CEO's of Ford, Chrysler, GM and their respective groups. Meetings will be held Thursday and Friday.

Plant Production Schedule

- Unless otherwise notified the main plant will continue to run 2 shifts.
- The Battery Department will follow the schedule below:
 - C shift in Battery will have 11 members work a prep shift during the entire 6 week period on nights.
 - When C shift is on days in Battery, A and B shift will fill the holes for C shift members working prep shift.

Battery Rotation Schedule

March 24	C shift days
March 31	A shift days
April 7	A shift days
April 14	B shift days
April 21	B shift days
April 28	C shift days
May 5	C shift days