



THE WORKERS DESCRIBED THE SPP'S CORPORATE-DRIVEN AGENDA AS MISGUIDED AND UNSUSTAINABLE. THEY SEE IT AS A THREAT TO THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES, WORKERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT – NOT TO MENTION NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Christina Riley

THE SPP IS A WASTE OF ENERGY

WORKERS DENOUNCE INTEGRATION AT LANDMARK MEETING

The Harper government made many pronouncements about the need for more energy “cooperation” with the U.S. and Mexico during the Montebello summit in August. But a group of people with a significant stake in these discussions has never been consulted – energy workers from the three countries.

Like all other citizens, energy workers were excluded from participating in the SPP negotiations. Instead, they took matters into their own hands, and convened a tri-national meeting on the eve of the Montebello summit, bringing together energy workers from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

Energy integration is a cornerstone of the SPP, and participants in the workers’ meeting were quick to denounce the SPP’s agenda for the complete integration and deregulation of the three countries’ electricity grids. Participants also condemned the integration of natural gas systems, the call for more imports

of liquefied natural gas, the proposed fivefold increase in Canadian tar sands production, and any attempts to privatize Mexico’s national energy industries.

The workers described the SPP’s corporate-driven agenda as misguided and unsustainable. They see it as a threat to the needs of families, workers and the environment – not to mention national and community economic development.

At the meeting, representatives of energy workers unions, social justice networks and civil society organizations affirmed the right of democratically elected governments to establish national and local energy policies, to defend and promote public ownership of energy production and distribution, and to regulate the private sector in favour of the public interest. They concluded the meeting with a call for democratic, sustainable national development of the energy resources in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Jean-Yves LeFort, the Council of Canadians’ Energy Campaigner, attended the tri-national energy workers’ meeting. To read the energy workers’ full statement, visit www.canadians.org.