



After hearing pleas of hundreds of workers, the Board decided to let the plant keep its permit and stay open. The neighborhood association, which wants the plant moved out of Butchertown, is contesting the Board's decision in a lawsuit.

Although the fight is not over, 1,300 Swift workers get to keep their jobs for now. **OP**

Local 99 and Grocery Chains Reach Tentative Agreement

Local 99 in Arizona and grocery companies Fry's and Safeway, last week, reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract.

The agreement comes after 13 long months of bargaining between Local 99 and the grocery companies, during which the companies engaged in a campaign to create dissension among workers while avoiding the real issues that workers care about, like keeping affordable health care, improving wages and retirement security.

Members of Local 99 will vote in the coming weeks on their new contract. If approved, the new contract will cover the more than 24,500 Local 99 workers who have been working without a union contract since their latest contract extension expired last October. **OP**

New Government Accountability Office Report Finds OSHA Must Do Better in Counting Workplace Injuries

A report released yesterday by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) revealed a complete and systemic failure in the way that the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) tracks workplace injuries.

The report, requested from GAO by U.S. Sens. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Patty Murray (D-WA), and U.S. Reps. George Miller (D-CA) and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), further finds:

- OSHA overlooks information from workers about injuries and illnesses because it does not routinely interview them as part of its records audits;
- OSHA also does not review the accuracy of injury and illness records for worksites in eight high hazard industries because it has not updated the industry codes used to identify these industries since 2002.

"Thousands of workers in America deal with workplace injuries everyday," said Mark Lauritsen, UFCW International Vice President and Director of the Food Processing, Packing, and Manufacturing Division. "This epidemic of suffering is damaging to the workers, their colleagues, their workplaces, their families and the communities where they live. American companies, especially those in the food processing industries, must stop contributing to this problem by pressuring and intimidating workers to keep silent about these problems."

The full report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d1010.pdf>. You can also read a summary at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-10>. **OP**

UFCW Local 1360 Members Overwhelmingly Vote to Authorize Strike at Acme Markets

Local 1360 members, fighting for affordable health care and retirement security at the bargaining table, have voted to authorize a strike against Acme Markets in southern New Jersey.

Acme Markets' refusal to listen to workers and work out a mutually beneficial agreement—while insisting upon demands that will jeopardize the livelihoods of the local's members—left Local 1360 members no choice but to authorize a strike if the company doesn't improve its offer.

Local 1360 Acme Markets members have been working without a contract since last April when their previous contract expired. **OP**