

No Single Employee Crews Campaign Takes Off on CN former WC Property

As of this writing, Canadian National (CN) has made no formal attempts to negotiate on-property agreements that would allow for single employee mainline operations. However, we fully anticipate the carrier will eventually do so; we must be vigilant and prepared for the coming eventuality.

Installation of Positive Train Control (PTC)-ready signaling, communication systems and other components is well under way across the Canadian National-owned Wisconsin Central system (WC). CN has announced they expect PTC to be fully operational over their entire U.S. network, which also includes the Illinois Central and Grand Trunk Western, by the current FRA deadline of Dec. 31, 2018.

All major railroad carriers have made no secret of their intentions to utilize PTC as a means to advance their agenda of 'efficiency' and 'cost control'. These industry buzzwords and phrases are nothing more than thinly veiled code for manpower reductions. But remember, the original intent of PTC was to make railroads safer, not to reduce labor costs.

With that in my mind, we have begun an informal campaign to raise awareness of this critical issue. Although our efforts are in their infancy, we have purchased hundreds of 'No Single

Employee Crews' stickers and bumper stickers, and have been gradually building a distribution network across the WC. The campaign has been met with enthusiasm by the rank & file. At terminals where stickers have been made available, the supply has not lasted more than a few days.

This type of grassroots workplace action is one of many ways we can build solidarity and rally our co-workers around major issues. Given the current anti-worker political and regulatory environment, we cannot afford to simply do nothing. We stand to be crushed unless we stand up and make our voices heard loud and clear - NO SINGLE EMPLOYEE CREWS!

