

USW Local 13-2001 member gives perspective of ExxonMobil's unilateral implementation of API-755. Do you have the same/similar perspective?

On the Issue of Implementing Mandatory Workdays on Designated Off Time

Like the vast majority of my brothers and sisters, I have come to feel privileged having the opportunity to work for ExxonMobil. My family is consistently taken aback and grateful for the strides that ExxonMobil will take to ensure I arrive home safely... "the same manner in which I came."

I so often receive monetary rewards for taking part in ExxonMobil's culture of health. My wife now ventures to the mailbox in high anticipation with a smile across her face in the hopes she finds those visa-share cards, like little Easter eggs. She genuinely appreciates the notion that my employer takes my personal health and happiness to heart. We use them as windfall gains that fund our date nights which have become so essential to contributing towards our healthy relationship.

Last week I received a meal from ExxonMobil as a reward for safety that will feed my whole family. The word has gone out that in my freezer sits what is sure to be a fantastic piece of happiness for all of us. When a sunshine weekend finally comes I am counting on having the Little Ones running around in the backyard, my family smiling, and what is sure to be an uproarious bout of laughter when the uncle that tends to drink too much becomes mildly belligerent and borderline inappropriate.

I have received numerous safety gifts in exchange for my service during our unit's turnaround. I used the wagon that was given to me to take my daughter to the zoo... I picture her sitting back into the pillows I laid down for her as she made a mess of the cotton candy my wife and I gave to her. If I should let out my last breath I will go with a smile on my face thinking of that day.

You will have to excuse me for these "pie-in-the-sky" images, but this my life at home. I choose to work at ExxonMobil because I believed in the beginning, correctly, that it would facilitate my happiness at home.

However... there have been recent discussions regarding the enforcement of a policy which will inhibit both my freedom and happiness to indulge in my family time, my personal time, without the looming encroachment of my otherwise incredible employer. This will be done irrespective of my personal opinion, choice, or input.

This will not happen.

I understand circumstances arise where the men and women who put in their time choose a path where their work will follow them home. For the most part that is the individual's prerogative and this is a subjective choice. Certainly there is nothing wrong with making the conscious decision to increasingly devote time, energy, and focus towards one's work to the extent it carries over into their home life.

This is not my path. This is not my prerogative. This is not my choice. My employer will not take away one second which I have previously devoted to those fond date nights with my wife... the one who endlessly supports me and my presence here. My employer will not take away one second I have devoted to my family and any time invested in our collaborative happiness. But most of all... with upmost sincerity and resolution, my employer will not rob me of one moment, one heartbeat, or even one breath of time I have promised and reserved for my daughter.

There is no compromise on this matter. This company will not loom over me and my family like a disgusting shadow. It is not welcome on a date with my spouse. It is not welcome in my backyard at a gathering of my loved ones. It is most certainly not welcome to intrude upon and steal one instant of time from the little girl whose very existence motivates me to open my eyes, crawl out of bed, and drive through these gates every day. As it is I make that journey from my bed to the front gate with a motivated mind and spirit, sparkle in my eye, and vast amounts of love for this place from fence to fence.

My life... at home, is the reason I come here. Do not mistake for a second the willingness of many to tolerate the introduction of an idea which runs contrary to this notion. These new policies which have been set in motion, firmly establish the tragic fact that my employer has confused the priorities and values of those that faithfully and dutifully serve it. Additionally, we understand, as our employer should also, that minds preoccupied with stolen time and resentment do nothing to contribute towards the dogmatic notion of going home... "in the same manner in which we came."

If ExxonMobil continues its attempts to implement these asinine policies it will rapidly discover where its workers hearts stand on the matter and thus, how intolerant and unwilling its loyal workers will be to embrace them.