

Issue 8
Dec 95

Livewire

JOBS UNDER THREAT

The announcement of 350 job losses at Manweb by Chief Executive Mike Kinsky has stunned the workforce. Many are still reeling from the impact of the 'scorched earth' policy which saw the workforce slashed by over 30% this year as part of the defence against Scottish Power's take over.

Threat of compulsory redundancies

Although staff feared that Scottish Power would be looking for savings, assurances had been given that redundancies would be voluntary. However, the blunt message given to many staff at meetings in the last few days has been that they will be required to apply for a reduced number of jobs in new structures. If they are unsuccessful and fail to get placed elsewhere within 6 months they will have to go. However it is dressed up this is **compulsory redundancy**.

Defend jobs

Union members are understandably angry at this invidious approach to job losses. A company which boasts combined profits with Manweb of

over £250 million cannot justify such a harsh approach to loyal Manweb workers.

Scottish workers also under threat

A similar approach to job losses for Scottish Power's own workforce has already led to consultative ballots of Scottish union members over strike action. If the threat of compulsory redundancies in Manweb is not withdrawn, many workers here could well be echoing the response of their colleagues in Scotland.

Working together?

The slogan adopted by Scottish Power in their pamphlet to all staff is "*Working together - sharing the future*". If this is to become a reality rather than empty rhetoric Scottish Power needs to win the confidence of Manweb's workforce, a goal which will not be achieved by covert threats of compulsory redundancies.

Unison will be seeking urgent talks between the Trade Unions and Mike Kinsky to ensure the threat of compulsory redundancies is lifted.

Unison AGM

The annual meeting of the Manweb Unison branch comes at a critical time for members.

This is your opportunity to have your say, elect your representatives and make the union work for you. **BE HEARD, BE THERE.**

**Thursday 18th January
Head Office Canteen
6:00 p.m. onwards**

The views and opinions expressed in Livewire are not necessarily those of the UNISON Manweb branch