



PRESSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DECEMBER 13, 2013

Union Places Ad Denouncing Governor Cuomo's Inaction on GE Plant Closing

The union representing 177 hourly GE employees at the Fort Edward, NY plant today announced that it has placed full-page ads in the *Albany Times-Union* which will run on Sunday, December 15 and Thursday, December 19. The ad, placed by Local 332 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), sharply criticizes Governor Andrew Cuomo's for his failure, so far, to join the fight to save the plant.

On November 24 GE announced that it had made a final decision to close the Ft. Edward facility and relocate in Clearwater, Florida. According to the Ft. Edward union, the GE plant and its payroll directly contribute \$35 million in annual revenue to the Washington-Warren-Saratoga County area. The closing of the plant, which according to GE will occur no earlier than September 2014, will bring economic devastation in addition to the environmental destruction GE has imposed on Ft. Edward, neighboring towns, and the Hudson River Valley.

For at least three decades GE polluted the plant site, the towns of Ft. Edward, Hudson Falls and surrounding communities with highly toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). From 1947 to 1977 GE also deliberately dumped 1.3 million pounds of PCBs into the Hudson River, poisoning a 200-mile stretch of the river from Ft. Edward to Manhattan.

According to UE Local 332 President Scott Gates: "We've tried repeatedly to engage [Governor Cuomo] in efforts to save the plant, but we've gotten no meaningful help from his office." One of Cuomo's staff representatives dismissed the union's requests, literally by throwing up his hands and telling the union leaders, "They want to move to Florida, we can't stop them."

The union ad says to Gov. Cuomo: "You are our governor and you should be fighting to keep good jobs here" and asks for "your help in the effort to convince GE to stay in Ft. Edward."

For more information, contact:

UE Local 332 President Scott Gates – 518-496-8608
UE International Rep. Gene Elk – 412-951-2196