



SEPTEMBER 2006 WEBSITE REPORT

ESSEX ENGINE

On September 15/2006 Ford Motor Company publicly announced the details of its accelerated Way Forward Plan and once again our members and our community were significantly impacted. It was formally announced that in addition to the previously named closure of the Windsor Casting Plant, Essex Engine Plant would also cease operations "sometime in 2007". No specific date was given, however the company indicated that the discontinuation of operations would occur towards the end of next year. Given the dramatic year over year decline in volumes along with the known phasing out of the Ford Freestar to which EEP is the sole supplier, the ceasing of V6 operations was not unexpected. This however did not in any way diminish the feeling of frustration felt by our members and their leadership who have worked so hard to make EEP the top rated power-train plant in Fords North American operations.

Ford's Way Forward Plan focused essentially in two main areas; 1. Cost reduction and 2. Product led recovery through new investments. The community of Windsor and our members have felt and will continue to feel the impact of cost reduction (closures) but the failure of Ford to announce even a single investment for its Windsor Operations as part of the company's product led recovery is unacceptable on any and all levels. 100 years of history, dedication and commitment by generations of working men and women to the success of Ford Motor Company was shamefully pushed aside on September 15/2006 and it has left many within our membership and community angry. Needless to say this anger and frustration should not replace the optimism and belief that we can take action to change the decision and direction Ford has taken for the Essex Engine Plant. This is certainly a difficult challenge, which will require the unified efforts of our government, our union and the entire community of Windsor/Essex County in order to achieve our objective of ensuring that Ford continues to invest in the future of the company and our community. We look forward to working with all of the individuals and groups who share this vision.

Shane Wark
Plant Chairperson
Essex Engine