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A long strike against GM could affect hundreds of local workers

By Thomas Gnau (excerpt)
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An enduring United Auto Workers (UAW) walkout against General Motors could affect Dayton-area auto parts suppliers — and hundreds of area employees.

But GM has enough inventory to weather a short walkout, according to at least one industry assessment.

David Kudla, founder and chief executive of Mainstay Capital Management in Grand Blanc, Mich., believes a UAW strike against GM could have a real impact on the Moraine DMAX plant, which produces the Duramax diesel engine.

“It would have a very serious impact, because they’re making engines for the Chevy Silverado, heavy duty, and GMC Sierra,” Kudla said. “Although they are not UAW locals, a UAW-represented plant, because they’re supplying UAW plants ... it would idle that plant at some point.”

If GM leaders think the company is approaching a strike situation, the automaker could try to stockpile inventories.

But GM can do only so much, Kudla said.

“If a strike went that long (greater than 60 to 80 days), even though they are not UAW-represented, at some point it would idle that plant,” he said of DMAX.

Current UAW contracts with all three American automakers are due to expire after 11:59 p.m. Saturday.

The UAW singled out GM as its lead strike target in contract talks, and after two months of bargaining, all eyes are on those sessions in the final days before contracts expire. ...

... Some big Dayton-area employers do supply

GM, including DMAX in Moraine, with more than 800 workers, and Fuyao Glass America, also in Moraine, with more than 2,000 workers.

Any strike impact on Fuyao would be limited, Kudla said. ...

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