

ENPRO INDUSTRIES, INC

Form DEFA14A

March 06, 2008

**SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)**

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities**

**Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12

**EnPro Industries, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
  - o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
    - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  
  
    - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  
  
    - (3) Filing Party:
  
  
    - (4) Date Filed:
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On March 5, 2008, after 5:30 pm (Eastern Time), EnPro Industries, Inc. ( EnPro ) issued the following press release:

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**News Release**

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**ENPRO INDUSTRIES RESPONDS TO STEEL PARTNERS  
PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT**

**Charlotte, North Carolina, March 5, 2008** EnPro Industries, Inc. (NYSE: NPO) today commented on Steel Partners II, L.P.'s ( Steel Partners ) preliminary proxy statement, which was filed yesterday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company also announced it would file its preliminary proxy statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission shortly. The company urges shareholders to await its definitive proxy statement and to support the company's nominees at that time, not Steel Partners' nominees.

Ernie Schaub, president and chief executive officer of EnPro, stated: "Our Board of Directors has thoroughly reviewed Steel Partners' suggestions and determined that they are not in the best interests of our company or our shareholders. Over the past six years, we have executed on a strategic plan that has delivered strong returns to our shareholders, including significant growth in sales, dramatic improvements in profitability and an appreciation in share price of over 300%. We are confident of our ability to continue to execute our strategic plan and believe this plan clearly provides the best opportunity to enhance shareholder value over the long term.

The \$100 million share repurchase program that we announced on March 3, 2008 strikes an appropriate balance between returning cash to EnPro shareholders and maintaining the flexibility we require to pursue our objectives for growth. Our growth and success to date reflect prudent investments of our capital to improve facilities, equipment and infrastructure. A more risky

recapitalization such as Steel Partners has advocated would, in the Board's judgment, undercut our financial flexibility and jeopardize our ability to execute the strategies we believe will provide continued improvement in our results. In particular, it could restrict our ability to fund new product development and market expansion and weaken our ability to withstand a lengthy economic downturn.

Steel Partners' proposals would also further limit our ability to pursue strategic acquisitions that enhance our existing lines of business. This is an important component of our strategic plan and an essential element of our growth. We have a record of integrating acquisitions to the benefit of our financial results. Steel Partners' proposals would limit our opportunity to increase value for our shareholders in this manner.

We disagree that pursuing a sale of the Company at this time would maximize value for our shareholders, said William R. Holland, non-executive chairman of EnPro. Given that Steel Partners has stated its interest in acquiring the company, we question how a control slate of their directors could possibly serve the best interests of the company and its other shareholders. The Board firmly believes that all shareholders should have the opportunity to participate in the substantial value that our strategic plan has been designed to achieve.

Holland continued, EnPro's existing Board and management have demonstrated the ability to create long-term value for all shareholders. From the first day of regular trading as an independent public company in June of 2002, until the close of business today, the annualized rate of shareholder returns from price appreciation in EnPro shares has been 29% with the price of our shares growing from \$7.00 per share at the close of the market on June 3, 2002 to \$31.14 at the close of the market today.

We will be asking all of our shareholders to support the company's directors at our 2008 annual meeting and recommending that they not sign any proxy for Steel Partners and its nominees.

#### **About EnPro**

EnPro Industries, Inc. is a leader in sealing products, metal polymer and filament wound bearings, compressor systems and components, diesel and dual-fuel engines and other engineered products for use in critical applications by industries worldwide. For more information about EnPro, visit the company's website at <http://www.enproindustries.com>.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Statements in this release that express a belief, expectation or intention, as well as those that are not historical fact, are forward-looking statements under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. They involve a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause actual events and results to differ materially from such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: the resolution of current and potential future asbestos claims against certain of our subsidiaries which depends on such factors as the possibility of asbestos reform legislation, the financial viability of insurance carriers, the timing of payments of claims and related expenses, the timing of insurance collections, limitations on the amount that may be recovered from insurance carriers, the bankruptcies of other defendants and the results of litigation; general economic conditions in the markets served by our businesses, some of which

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are cyclical and experience periodic downturns; prices and availability of raw materials; and the amount of any payments required to satisfy contingent liabilities related to discontinued operations of our predecessors, including liabilities for certain products, environmental matters, guaranteed debt and lease payments, employee benefit obligations and other matters. Our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 describe these and other risks and uncertainties in more detail. We do not undertake to update any forward-looking statement made in this release to reflect any change in management's expectations or any change in the assumptions or circumstances on which such statements are based.

**Additional Information Concerning Proxy Materials**

EnPro will file a proxy statement in connection with its 2008 annual meeting of shareholders. EnPro shareholders are strongly advised to read the proxy statement and the accompanying proxy card when they become available, as they will contain important information. Shareholders will be able to obtain this proxy statement, any amendments or supplements to the proxy statement and other documents filed by EnPro with the Securities and Exchange Commission for free at the Internet website maintained by the Securities and Exchange Commission at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the proxy statement and any amendments and supplements to the proxy statement will also be available for free at EnPro's website, <http://www.enproindustries.com>, or by writing to EnPro Industries, Inc., 5605 Carnegie Boulevard, Suite 500, Charlotte, North Carolina 28209, Attention: Corporate Secretary. EnPro and its directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies for EnPro's 2008 annual meeting, and detailed information regarding the names and affiliations of EnPro's directors is available in the proxy statement for EnPro's 2007 annual meeting of shareholders filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 22, 2007. Information regarding the interests of EnPro's directors and executive officers and the names and affiliations of EnPro's executive officers is available in the first Schedule 14A filed by EnPro with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 6, 2008.