

System Council U-4 Negotiation News



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The System Committee and the Company over the last two weeks continued discussions on the Power Generation Business Units proposals. The Company focused on the ratio of base to shift and Itinerants in an attempt to better utilize the work force, with a promise to off-set the use of contractors. On Friday October 3, 2008, the Company announced their intent to close Riviera Plant and place it in a reserve status on November 1st of this year. The Company and the System Committee are exploring all possible solutions to help mitigate a negative outcome as a result of the closing of Riviera and any future reserve shutdown that may take place at other locations.

The System Committee proposed modification to Contract language for Holiday/Work on 12 hour shift schedules, Holiday pay (12 for 12). The Committee also presented the improvements to the two tier Welding Program; Qualified Welders and Certified Welders to receive an increase for maintaining qualifications and an hourly premium.

The Committee proposed the deletion of three existing MOU's; 1. Delete the PTF/PCU Pilot, 2. Delete Temporary Work Force Power Generation, and 3. Delete 48.1 (f) Special Itinerants.

The Company and the System Committee discussed in great detail the upcoming changes to the Medical Premiums in an effort to maintain the required reserve balance to manage the payment of monthly claims and administrative costs. As a result, the actuaries for both parties are working together to establish the appropriate contribution level and Plan pricing for 2009. A Stipulation of Agreement will be provided to assist the Membership in selecting the Medical Benefit Plan that best suits their needs once an agreement has been reached.

The Committee continued to discuss the following Distribution proposals.

- MSR: Major Storm Restoration which provides a specified pay scale for all hours worked when assisting other utilities in service restoration. The Company showed no interest in increasing the pass through costs to neighboring utilities.
- FR Clothing allowance: the Company provided a counter offer that still falls short of the national average.
- Power Quality Upgrade: the Company has no interest in further talks concerning the Power Quality Line Specialist upgrade.
- Street Light Maintenance: The Union has expressed no interest in creating a new non-craft classification to be utilized for street light repair.

The System Committee would like to acknowledge the efforts of all Distribution employees and crews in support of the TSC process. We are on path to exceed our previous best year. "Yes, I am my Brother's Keeper".

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