NECA / IBEW POWERING AMERICA

NECA-IBEW NATIONAL LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION COMMITTEE

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TO: All IBEW Local Union Business Managers
All NECA Chapter Managers

Changes in technology and customer requirements can create opportunities for NECA-IBEW employers. The IBEW and NECA have recognized such an opportunity related to customer requirements for certified employers and workers for Low, Medium, and High Voltage testing.

Of course, such testing has been around for as long as the industry, but more recently certification and training standards developed by the InterNational Electrical Testing Association (NETA) have been gaining appeal among owners and are finding their way into more and more job specifications. NETA's rigid certification program makes it very challenging for our contractors to meet the NETA qualification standards and still be able to follow a particular customer across the country. The NETA certification process is too involved to be covered in this letter, but if you are interested in reviewing their program, visit www.netaworld.org. But one of the key issues facing a contractor in this field is the need to use accredited workers at each testing site. For employers engaged in this kind of work within a single jurisdiction, this is not a problem, but as the employer needs to follow a customer, it may become more difficult.

In order to streamline the movement of NETA accredited workers the IBEW and NECA have negotiated the attached "National NETA Portability Agreement." Consistent with the National Agreement on Employee Portability, this agreement allows employers to bring up to four of their NETA accredited employees into another local union jurisdiction to perform work on each job or project where the owner is requiring NETA certification. If an employer needs additional workers, the employer then must contact the site local union and determine if there are any NETA accredited workers available on the referral list. If available, the local will refer them to the employer as it would any other applicant. However, if there aren't any NETA accredited technicians available, or there are an insufficient number for the work that the employer needs to perform, the employer may bring in as many additional NETA accredited workers as necessary from other locations to complete its work.

The agreement becomes effective February 1. It applies to any employer signatory to a local inside or outside construction agreement in its home local and in the jurisdiction where the work is to be performed. Employers and local union do not need to sign this agreement separately, but a copy is included for your information. Also included is a Question and Answer sheet to help illustrate how the portability provisions work.

We are confident that this will provide employers who are already engaged in this type of work, as well as those who wish to enter it, a more streamlined, and effective way to meet their customers' needs.

Sincerely

John M. Grau
CEO, NECA

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Edwin D. Hill
International President, IBEW