



LOCAL 1-2 UPDATE

LOCAL 1-2, USPG AND NRG SEQUESTER FOR TALKS, FEDERAL MEDIATORS JOIN, BOTH CONTRACTS EXPIRE JUNE 21 WITH STRIKE AUTHORIZATIONS

James T. Slevin, President of Local 1-2, NY, UWUA, AFL-CIO announced today that Local 1-2 contract talks with power providers US Power Gen and NRG were being moved to a neutral location in Westchester County as the June 21, 2014 deadline approached.

Earlier this month Local 1-2 Members for both units had voted overwhelmingly to provide strike authorization when their respective contracts expire at midnight June 21.

“This week the summer build-up of hot weather began,” Slevin said, noting that it puts a strain on the City’s electric system. Slevin said that should a strike occur in the summer months, it could cause problems during the hottest days.

Slevin said the current struggle during the talks with both employers revolved around work practices and benefits. He added that the Union asked the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to assist the parties in resolving any remaining disputes. The FMCS will join the talks Thursday, June 19. “This is going down to the wire and that’s never a good thing,” Slevin said.

Con Edison has forecast record usage for the summer of 2014. The two companies generate a combined 2677 MW, a significant percentage of Con Ed’s megawatt load. USPG owns and operates the Astoria generating station in Queens as well as the Gowanus turbine facility and the Narrows turbine facility, both in Brooklyn, while NRG operates one turbine and one turbine in Astoria. With the combined output of both companies at risk, Con Ed would have to look elsewhere for electric capacity to meet its forecast demand in excess of 13,214 MW set in July 2013.

“We want the public to be aware that these highly profitable energy producers are in serious talks with Local 1-2 and to understand that the men and women who keep these plants operating are only seeking a decent, fair contract.” Slevin said.