

MEMORANDUM

October 9, 2009

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

Whenever a hurricane, ice storm, or other disaster strikes, one of the first questions asked is, "When will electrical service be restored?" Over the years, America's utilities have turned to IBEW/NECA line crews to augment their work forces and get the lights back on. Our industry is justifiably proud of our commitment to answer the utilities' calls for assistance.

In order to streamline the movement of workers to areas recovering from a natural or other disaster, the IBEW and NECA have negotiated the attached "National Outside Construction Emergency Response Agreement." This agreement, developed by a special joint IBEW/NECA task force of line contractors and outside Local Union Business Managers, will allow signatory line contractors to respond rapidly to an emergency, while assuring that IBEW Local Unions in the affected areas, as well as NECA Chapters, are timely and properly notified, and that workers moved under the agreement receive proper treatment and consideration while working in the emergency area and when they return home.

This agreement not only improves the organized line industry's competitive position in these situations, justifying the utilities' trust in us, but fulfills our greater obligation to the general public to restore needed services as quickly as possible.

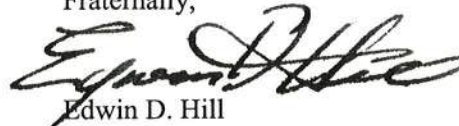
The agreement is in effect now. Emergency related electrical outages are hard enough on the community without confusion or disruptions caused by conflicting agreement language or interpretations getting in the way of a timely response. We are confident you will put this agreement to good use during the current storm season and beyond.

Sincerely,



John M. Grau
CEO, NECA

Fraternally,



Edwin D. Hill
International President, IBEW

NECA/IBEW

National Outside Construction Emergency Response Agreement

This agreement made and entered into by and between the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is applicable to all firms who sign a Letter of Assent to be bound by an outside construction agreement between any line construction chapter of NECA and any local union of the IBEW. The IBEW may make this agreement available to other employers in the outside electrical construction industry who are signed to like outside construction agreements as mentioned above.

This agreement shall take effect August 1, 2009, and shall remain in effect until August 1, 2012, unless otherwise specifically provided for herein. It shall continue in effect from year to year thereafter, from August 1 through the last day of July of each year, unless either party terminates this agreement by providing written notification to the other party at least 90 days prior to the expiration date of the agreement or any anniversary date occurring thereafter. Notwithstanding proper notice required in item 4 below, any work commenced or contracted for during an “emergency response” (as described below) that occurs while this agreement is in effect shall be completed under the terms of this agreement.

The provisions of this agreement will be effective whenever a utility, municipality, or rural electric cooperative has called for a response to an “emergency” in their service area. The agreement will continue until the contractor has been released by the utility.

The term *NECA*, as hereinafter used, shall mean the National Electrical Contractors Association. The term *chapter* shall mean the applicable chapter of NECA. The term *employer* shall mean an individual firm that has signed a Letter of Assent to an “outside” construction agreement as mentioned above.

The term *IBEW* or *union*, as hereinafter used, shall mean the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The term *local union* shall mean an IBEW local union.


The term “*site*” or “*emergency*” shall refer to the jurisdiction of the local union where the work is being performed. The term “*home*” shall refer to the jurisdiction of the local union where the individual workers moved under the provisions of this agreement were employed prior to their transfer to the “emergency response” area.

During the period of the “emergency response,” the following conditions will exist:

1. All employers will have full portability of employees between local unions for all classifications of workers covered under either or ***both the site and*** home agreements. It is understood and agreed to that this portability will apply to apprentices for the period of the “emergency” provided the home AJATC allows apprentices to travel for storm work. AJATC’s shall work co-operatively to assure that apprentices are accommodated during periods of working in an “emergency response.” No employer or their employees shall be penalized in any way upon returning to their home areas after working under an “emergency response,” including any requirement for the lay-off or re-referral of employees. Employees traveling under this “emergency response” agreement shall be paid for travel directly from the “home” to the “site” area and back to the “home” area at the appropriate wage rate. Employees traveling under this provision must provide proof they were legitimately referred to the travelling contractor by an IBEW local union to the site local union upon request. Employee “raiding” or “direct solicitation” is not an acceptable practice and may result in appropriate grievances or charges filed against those involved.
2. The minimum wage and fringe benefit package for all employees, including apprentices, working during an “emergency response” shall be the wage and fringe benefit package of the site local “outside” NECA/IBEW collective bargaining agreement. Additionally, all other working conditions of the “site” local “outside” agreement will prevail during the “emergency response” except for certain grievances resulting from section 3(a) below. Any grievances arising out the first sentence of section 3(a) shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the “home” agreement
3. Employers traveling into the “emergency” area shall be permitted to report and pay their employees according to either section 3(a) or section 3(b) below and declare such method in accordance with item 4 below:
 - a. Traveling employers shall pay and report in the amount required by their home agreement, all fringe benefit payments (healthcare, pension, annuity, NEBF, NEAP, NLMCC etc.) and/or special fund contributions (safety, clothing, testing, etc.) back to their home local area. If the total wage and fringe benefit package in the “emergency” area agreement is higher than the total wage and fringe benefit package in the home area agreement, the difference shall be converted to dollars and added to the employee’s hourly wage. All IBEW local union working assessments; NECA Chapter dues, AMF, and/or service charges; and apprenticeship contributions shall be paid to the “emergency” area Local Union, Chapter and AJATC. A copy of all payments paid and reported to the home area chapter shall be furnished to the “emergency” area chapter and a copy of all payments paid and reported to the “emergency” area chapter shall be furnished to the home area chapter. **OR:**

- b. Traveling employers shall make and report all payments for wages, fringe benefits and any other funds required in accordance with the “emergency” area agreement.
4. Employers performing work under this “emergency response” agreement shall notify both their “home” and “emergency” area IBEW Local Union, NECA Chapter and AJATC as soon as possible; however the employee shall be notified prior to traveling. This notification may be done by fax, e-mail or phone and shall include the designation of payment option per item 3 above, the names, classifications, local union and/or social security number of the employees being brought in for “emergency response” work. While it is understood that in an “emergency response” situation the mobilization of equipment and manpower is the highest priority, this does not relieve an employer from the notification requirements listed above.

Signed for NECA



John M. Grau
CEO

Date: 10/6/2009

Signed for the IBEW



Edwin D. Hill
International President

Date: 10/9/09