

Press Release:

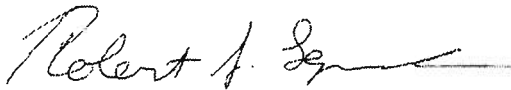
The Pantex Guards Union membership voted overwhelming to reject BWXT Pantex's best and final contract offer. A picket line was established at 0001 hours on April 16, 2007.

The following reasons that were not sufficiently addressed in the BWXT final proposal that created the membership rejection were:

- Long- Term Career Progression, the membership want assurances that they can age with this job and retiree from these positions model under a federal law enforcement benefit structure.
- The failure to properly address the pension needs of the older union members by using a strict wage baseline of a 2080 hour work year instead of the 2303 regular scheduled hours an employee works. The variables that make up our current pension model have all remained the same.
- Proposed new provisions within the overtime guidelines. The average union member works one-third of their scheduled days of rest. The membership felt like they have to negotiate their days off or face discipline.
- A degrading in the physical fitness training program making it harder to maintain our physical standards.
- Refusal to apply Notification Language that would allow our Union to bargain the impact of any DOE directives affecting the working conditions and the terms and conditions of employment. A change that vitally impacts our members working conditions or terms and conditions of employment are subject to mandatory bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act. All we are requesting for is our rights granted to us by Federal Law be incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement.
- Poor and unsafe working conditions resulting from increased standards and equipment or lack of proper equipment. These contentions are currently being investigated by the Inspector General. The Pantex Guards Union hereby request of Mr. Glen Podonsky, the Chief Safety and Security Officer for the Department of Energy, for an office of assessment team to report to Pantex and resolve these safety and security issues immediately for the betterment of all.
- In the most simplistic terms possible the membership truly believes, because of the sacrifices that they make, that they were entitled to more than what was offered.

- I would request the assistance of Federal Mediation immediately. The Pantex Guards Union membership is the best protective force available for the defense and security of the Nation's most vital assets that are at the Pantex plant. The Pantex Guards Union has showed their commitment and expertise to perform this mission through various forces on force exercises and other testing venues used.

There was one major item that was addressed successfully that had the potential to displace 100 protective force members. The Pantex Guards Union received a permanent variance to a DOE provision that adversely impacted our members' seniority rights. This Variance was received on April 13, 2007 and we appreciate DOE's intervention. This move by DOE showed outstanding stewardship of the taxpayer's money by allowing the older protective force member to stay at Pantex and strengthen stability within the protective force.



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