

## JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Representing*

LOCAL NO. 1

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

*And*

ST. LOUIS CHAPTER

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

April 17, 2020

**TO: ALL CONTRACTORS SIGNATORY TO A LOCAL UNION NO. 1, IBEW AGREEMENT WITH THE ST. LOUIS CHAPTER, NECA and**

**ALL LOCAL UNION NO. 1, IBEW MEMBERS WORKING UNDER THOSE AGREEMENTS**

**RE: UPDATE ON IBEW-NECA RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

Dear Contractor and Local #1 Member:

Within days of the first incident of COVID-19 in our region, the leadership of Local Union #1, IBEW and the St. Louis Chapter, NECA, along with the Trustees of our Benefit Funds, immediately coordinated efforts to make certain that we utilized our joint resources to assist our contractors and workers to cope with pandemic concerns and make prudent decisions to safeguard the health of our industry members and community. Since our first joint communication was issued, March 13, 2020, it has become increasingly clear that we are facing a unique challenge unlike anything our industry and country have faced before.

Signatory contractors and the Local #1 membership have demonstrated an outstanding level of cooperation and mutual effort to address the many issues arising from the pandemic and our community's response to COVID-19. Local #1 and NECA are in constant communication working to provide the best information available and assist our memberships to cope with the pandemic and its effects on our industry. **Our joint and primary concern is that our IBEW workforce and contractors remain healthy and capable of weathering the impact of the pandemic.**

Every contractor and IBEW member have been faced with challenges, as a result of the pandemic. Our industry's cooperation has been outstanding, thus far, but we must continue to work together to make certain that efforts are effective in safeguarding both the health and economic stability of all workers and contractors. Our industry has a unique role in our communities because electrical and communication services are so essential. Throughout the pandemic crisis, **NECA contractors and IBEW workers will be expected to continue essential work so that electrical and communication systems are in place and operational for every citizen in our market areas. At the same time, we must make certain that we create and adhere to jobsite safety protocols so that all of our members remain healthy and safe from COVID-19.**

If we fail to implement and adhere to appropriate jobsite protocols and "Shelter at Home" orders, when applicable, the people in our industry will be needlessly exposed to COVID-19. It is vital that every IBEW member and contractor understand this delicate balance between our obligation to perform necessary work and the necessity to protect the health and safety of every person in our industry.

Continued diligence to pandemic protocols and cooperation between every member of our industry is essential for us to maintain our economic stability and health. If we fail to perform essential work, open shop or Local 57 companies will have no problem taking our place and diminish our opportunity to rebound after the pandemic subsides.

The responses of our Federal, State and Local Governments to the COVID-19 Pandemic are in a constant state of change. Since we published our initial industry communication, a few weeks ago, a series of new programs, benefits and funding opportunities have been announced. In many cases, procedures and critical questions are addressed in stages, as the responsible authority responds to questions and new challenges. For this reason, we are working every day to modify our programs, when necessary, to maximize the benefit and minimize the cost of our joint response to COVID-19. Some benefits have been clarified or restructured so that we can take full advantage of available government funding and comply with the constantly evolving conditions placed upon these funds.

**Important Information Concerning the Coronavirus Pandemic and Availability of Benefits**

Local Union No. 1, IBEW and the St. Louis Chapter, NECA are committed to communicate reliable and timely information to our respective memberships to understand the Coronavirus pandemic and safeguard the health of every member and their families. To improve this communication, we have prepared a detailed summary of benefits available to our respective members. We believe that some programs referenced in the summary will continue to change, as new conditions and regulations are published. The summary will be posted on the IBEW-NECA Service Center’s website [www.svcctr.org](http://www.svcctr.org) and will be distributed through various channels by both Local #1 and the Chapter, as new information is forthcoming.

Useful information concerning the virus and appropriate ways to safeguard your health is available from the *Center for Disease Control* at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. NECA is also continuously updating its National Coronavirus website, which is available at <https://www.necanet.org/about-us/news/news-release-archive/news/2020/03/06/statement-on-coronavirus-from-neca-chief-executive-officer-david-long>

Employers are encouraged to report all jobsite closures and projects delayed or limited by customer or contractor response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The online form for this report has been distributed to all signatory contractors and is available from the St. Louis Chapter, NECA.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic is challenging our industry in ways we have never before encountered. We encourage Local 1 members and contractors to protect our customers and communities by working together to make certain available projects and essential service work continues to be performed timely and professionally. At the same time, we encourage every member of our construction team to comply with all protocols and procedures necessary to work safely and avoid exposure to the virus. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and mutual commitment to work together, during these unsettled times. **Most importantly STAY SAFE!**


Respectfully,



Frank D. Jacobs  
Business Manager  
Local 1, IBEW

FDJ/DRM/dls

Respectfully,



Douglas R. Martin  
Executive Vice President  
St. Louis Chapter, NECA