



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWS charged with violations of Federal Labor Law in two separate cases. September trial dates are scheduled.

(June 23, 2016) The General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority has decided issue formal Complaints against the National Weather Service, charging it with illegally walking out of negotiations with NWSEO in two separate sets of negotiations.

In the first case, the General Counsel of the FLRA has charged that NWS Alaska Region management illegally reduced the hours of operations at the Nome, Barrow and Kodiak WSOs in June 2015 after unilaterally terminating on-going negotiations with NWSEO on the impact that the reduction in hours would have on employees. NWSEO submitted 70 bargaining proposals and a federal mediator was already assisting the parties in attempting to reach an agreement. Rather than agree to any of the union's proposals – or even to discuss many of them – management cancelled all future negotiations and reduced the staff and the hours of operations at the three offices. The matter has been set for trial before a Federal Administrative Law Judge in Anchorage, Alaska for September 28. At the trial, NWSEO will seek an order to have the offices re-staffed and returned to 24/7 operations; NWSEO will also seek back pay for employees who lost night, Sunday, and holiday differential.

In the second case, the General Counsel of the FLRA has decided to issue a complaint alleging that in November 2015, NWS contract negotiators, led by its chief negotiator Ken Brown, illegally terminated bargaining over grounds rules for the parties' national Collective Bargaining Agreement. Brown, peeved that the union would not capitulate to the agency's demands, declared that bargaining was futile and cancelled the next round of negotiations that had been previously scheduled for December. NWS eventually returned to the bargaining table months later, after the NWS's claim that the parties were at impasse was rejected by the Federal Services Impasse Panel. Progress towards agreement on ground rules was made this spring, but the NWS has once again asked the FSIP to resolve the parties' differences over a single provision that is outstanding, rather than accepting any of NWSEO's proposed compromises. A trial date for this case has been set for September 13.

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.
No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.
We are NWSEO.**