

SEP 02 2026

STATE OF ILLINOIS – DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
115 S. LA SALLE STREET, 37th FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60603

IDOL - CHICAGO OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS	)	
ASSOCIATION, NORTHERN ILLINOIS	)	
CHAPTER	)	
	)	State File No.: 2027-H-CC08-2358
Objectors,	)	
v.	)	
	)	
JANE R. FLANAGAN, DIRECTOR of the	)	
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, and	)	
the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

OPERATOR'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

Petitioners, John Ahlgrim, a member and Director of Contract Negotiations for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, AFL-CIO and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, AFL-CIO ("IUOE Local 150"), by and through their attorneys, submit this petition to intervene in the above-captioned matter, and in support of state as follows:

1. John Ahlgrim is a member and Director of Contract Negotiations for IUOE Local 150.
2. IUOE Local 150 is a labor organization representing individuals performing work as Operating Engineers on prevailing wage projects throughout various Illinois counties, including Winnebago, Stephenson, Boone, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside Counties.
3. Pursuant to Section 3 of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (the "Act"), 820 ILCS 130/3, the general prevailing rate of hourly wages for work of a similar character shall be paid to all laborers, workers and mechanics engaged in the construction or demolition of public works.

4. On or about August 14, 2026, Objectors National Electrical Contractors Association, Northern Illinois Chapter (NECA, Northern Illinois Chapter or Objector) submitted Written Objections and Petition for Hearing Under Sections 4 and 9 of the Prevailing Wage Act ("Objections") to the Illinois Department of Labor ("IDOL" or "Department") pursuant to sections 4 and 9 of the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/4 and 130/9).

5. NECA, Northern Illinois Chapter submits written objections to "the prevailing rate of wages for the classifications of Communication Technician and Electrician and for the absence of a 'C' class" for those two classifications.

6. The objections also state that the collective bargaining agreement between NECA, Northern Illinois Chapter and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 364 ("IBEW Local 364") "contain specific wages and benefits to be paid to other classifications that are 'above' and 'below' the published classifications for work performed"

7. Objector identifies the affected counties as Winnebago, Stephenson, Boone, Ogle, parts of Lee, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside.

8. The objections do not include a copy of the applicable collective bargaining agreement and do not specify the type of work performed under a "C" class.

9. It is unclear whether work performed under a "C" class is covered under the existing prevailing wage classifications of Communication Technician and Electrician classification in the affected counties, or whether it is covered under other existing classification(s) on the prevailing wage schedule.

10. IUOE Local 150 has entered into collective bargaining agreements with signatory contractors in the affected counties. Members of Local 150, as well as the signatory contractors who employ them, currently perform work on public projects in these counties pursuant to

collective bargaining agreements; this work is performed under existing prevailing wage classifications for Operating Engineer published by the Department based on these collective bargaining agreements.

11. If Objector is successful, some of this work performed by Local 150's members may be encompassed by Objector's request for a "C" classification.

12. Section 120.320(a)(1) of Title 56 of the Illinois Administrative Code states that a party may intervene in a Section 9 hearing in the following circumstances: "(A) The party is so situated that he or she may be adversely affected by a final order arising from the hearing; (B) The party requesting intervention is a necessary party to the hearing proceeding; or (C) A party's claim or defense and the main action have a question of law or fact in common."

13. Pursuant to Section 9 of the Act, "any interested objectors may ... introduce such evidence as is material to the issue." 820 ILCS 130/9.

14. As set forth above, IUOE Local 150, as well as signatory contractors, may be adversely affected by a final order arising from a hearing, based on the potential conflict of work performed under the existing classifications of Operating Engineer and a new "C" classification.

15. Because work set out in the Objector's CBAs may be covered under IUOE Local 150 CBAs and the existing prevailing wage classifications for Operating Engineer, Local 150 is a necessary party to the hearing proceeding.

16. There are also common questions of law and fact that must be resolved prior to ruling on the objections, including whether the proposed classification is covered under the existing classifications of Operating Engineers, or Communication Technician or Electrician. 820 ILCS 130/4(m).

17. The objections also present a common question of fact and law concerning whether the Department has authority under the Prevailing Wage Act, to establish a rate “below” the published classifications of Communication Technician and Electrician for the scope of work performed.

18. Permitting Local 150 to intervene will not cause undue delay or prejudice and will result in a full and fair resolution of the issues.

WHEREFORE, IUOE Local 150 respectfully requests the Administrative Law Judge enter an Order granting this Petition to Intervene and for such other relief deemed appropriate and just.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN AHLGRIM, as a Member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150 AFL-CIO, and THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 150, AFL-CIO,

September 2, 2026

By: /s/ Melissa Binetti
One of Their Attorneys

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