

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

REPLY TO: A7310
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Joint Statement of Safety Commitment Dealing with COVID-19

TO: All Craft Employees and Maintenance Supervisors

COVID-19 cases are surging across a vast part of WAPA’s territory with community spread now rapidly increasing in rural areas across the WAPA footprint. With the latest data showing WAPA’s footprint overlapping with the highest rates of infection per capita, both Labor and Management issue this joint statement to amplify our spirit of obligation to our safety responsibilities while dealing with this pandemic. IBEW GCC #1 and WMMC leadership are committed to protecting the health and well-being of ourselves, our fellow employees, and our families. Over the last eight months, WAPA’s craft employees have taken on challenges well beyond the scope of normal work practices while responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Efforts displayed in response to protecting yourself and others are deeply appreciated.

IBEW Union and Management leadership continue to encourage our craft workers to remain vigilant by staying current with, and following, the COVID-19 guidelines as they continue to evolve, knowing that this is uncharted territory. This pandemic has been one of the biggest tests of our flexibility, ingenuity, and resourcefulness and we have been extremely successful in accomplishing our Mission. As essential workers, we understand the critical nature of our job as it leads to the reliability of our nation’s power grid and the safety and security of the citizens of our nation. This is a unique and challenging opportunity to lead by example, serving as role models for our fellow workers, citizens, and families, while expanding the safety culture that we practice in our workplaces, homes, and communities.

WAPA cannot eliminate the COVID-19 hazard, however we can manage the risk of exposure to our employees. This strategy is strengthened by everyone playing a part in the process and taking personal responsibility. As we head into the fall and winter seasons with predicted infection rates continuing to trend unfavorably, it is more important now than ever to not let our guards down. We can each contribute individually to the health of our nation by following WAPA guidelines such as wearing masks, washing our hands, and socially distancing. WAPA leadership understands your essential role in maintaining the reliability of our nations critical infrastructure and commends you for your unwavering dedication and commitment to safety as we navigate through these challenging and unprecedented times.

Kevin Howard Date
Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer
WMMC Senior Sponsor

Paul Eiler Date
IBEW GCC #1 Chairman

Darren Buck Date
Vice President of Transmission System
Asset Management for RMR

Austin Pfeifer Date
IBEW 1759 Representative

Bradford Smith Date
IBEW 2159 Representative

Bruce Harrington Date
Vice President of Transmission System
Asset Management for UGP

Tom Holmstrom Date
IBEW 1959 Representative

Jack Murray Date
Vice President of Transmission System
Asset Management for DSW

Delbert Hawk Date
IBEW 640 Representative

Will Schnyer Date
Director, Transmission and Construction
for SNR

James Hill Date
IBEW 1245 Representative