

Power Notes

I.B.E.W. Local 2067

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External Temporary Bids Posted for Chinook Power Station, Swift Current

It has been brought to our attention from the membership that a recent external post for Process Operators for a period less than 12 months was posted by SaskPower.

We have been meeting with the company for the past few months, working on issues related to Power Production staffing requirements for southern coal fired generation facilities as well as the new natural gas thermal generation facilities being constructed.

After being made aware of the external posting, our initial reaction was to file a grievance. Although no direct violation occurred, it could be argued that the spirit of the agreement had been violated when the company posted the positions for 1-day less than a year. It is very frustrating as leaders within the local union to see situations where members bid on vacancies as per the collective agreement, only to find themselves being held to positions for excessive periods of time because of the sheer incompetence of key decision makers within the company. It is equally frustrating to see members who have been appointed to these positions now being held while temporary positions are posted externally to fill positions. Our members lose out on not only monetary opportunities, but much needed commissioning opportunities.

We had informally requested a meeting with the President of SaskPower and the Vice President of Human Resources, SaskPower to discuss these most recent decisions.

It is our desire to work in a harmonious relationship with SaskPower, and find workable solutions in difficult times and situations, but we can't always assist the employer and see little to no benefit to the impacted membership. We have heard from our members who are directly impacted by these corporate directives, and assure them that we are equally as disturbed by the lack of competency within SaskPower Power Production. We are addressing this concern with a desire for a more amicable solution that benefits both SaskPower and the membership. The members did not create this situation but a combination of poor corporate decision making and government directives have.

In Solidarity, Jason Tibbs

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