



District 4

William J. Pienta
District Director

Albert Polk
Assistant to the Director

Monday, January 11, 2010

Dear Michael Tuff and Doug Rooney,

On behalf of the nearly 1,200 USW members employed by National Grid and the 850,000 USW members throughout the U.S. and Canada, I'm writing to express my full support for Unite the union in its struggle for justice at National Grid.

I have been informed that Unite has recently balloted its members at National Grid for industrial action over changes to terms and conditions for new starters as well as pay and conditions. I have been further informed that National Grid has not yet made an acceptable offer, despite the fact that talks have been taking place since April 2009 and National Grid's most recent financial filings show a 16 percent increase in profits.

USW has recently had its own challenges with National Grid. We represent nearly 1,200 members at National Grid in USW District 4, which covers much of the North Eastern U.S. We were very close to entering into a labor dispute with National Grid in early 2009. The company was seeking to undermine work rules that protect our members, do away with restrictions on contracting out, and institute lower wages for new hires. This is despite the fact the company was very profitable. Fortunately, we were able to pressure the company enough to reach a settlement at the last minute without a work stoppage.

Our unions recently formed a partnership, Workers Uniting, for joint work in a number of areas including working together at common employers. We believe Unite members and USW members at National Grid can only benefit through our unions working together as Workers Uniting. USW is eager to do whatever we can to support you in your current struggle. Even after this struggle is over, we believe that collaboration will benefit USW and Unite members at National Grid in the future.

I hope our unions will have the chance to work together at National Grid. Please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Sincerely,

William J. Pienta

William Pienta, Director
USW District 4

C: Richard O'Brien, Workers Uniting
Derek Simpson, Unite Joint General Secretary
Tony Woodley, Unite Joint General Secretary
Leo Gerard, USW, International President
Jerry Fernandez, USW, Assistant to the President
Steve Finnigan, USW
George Magnan, USW