



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

July 2007

NWS MANAGEMENT BACKS AFGE IN BID TO UNDERMINE NWSEO

Management of the National Weather Service is backing an attempt by the American Federation of Government Employees to make inroads into representing NWS employees. Although the FLRA has certified NWSEO as the collective bargaining representative of *all* non-managerial, non-supervisor employees, NWS management has extended recognition to the AFGE at the National Logistic Support Center in Kansas City, which was transferred to the NWS from NOAA in January.

In an e-mail to NWSEO President Dan Sobien, NWS management writes that it intends to recognize AFGE Local 1910 as the representative of NLSC employees and to honor NOAA's former collective bargaining agreement with AFGE covering those employees. NWS is also honoring AFGE dues withholding for employees at the NLSC.

The Federal Labor Relations Authority will hold a hearing on this matter in Kansas City on July 17-19, but NWS management is sabotaging NWSEO's preparation for the case by ignoring requests for information about the NLSC and its employees which the agency is obligated to provide under the Federal Service Labor Management Relations Statute.

This is not the only effort by NWS management to cut the size of the NWSEO's bargaining unit and its influence. Management has proposed to eliminate bargaining unit hydrologist positions at the RFCs and use those slots to create more management positions, and has also refused to provide NWSEO with information needed to bargain over this move.

Furthermore, NWSEO has learned that NWS will be meeting this week with the Canadian Weather Service to be briefed on how the Canadians cut the FTE's in their aviation weather program by half.