

Joint SBU Report Back

12 June 2014

2nd Meeting Still No Movement

Today was the second meeting for a replacement Union Collective Agreement.

Proposed Rollover Agreement

At the meeting today the company has advised that it will not go down the path of a rollover agreement because it would not provide the company with the 'flexibility' which it requires for the future.

Some 'flexibilities' mentioned throughout the discussion included the use of contractors, contractor switching, and changes to the EDSD allowance and payment which is 'under consideration' by the company.

Timeframes for Further Meetings

Despite Energex previously proposing to meet twice per month after the first meeting, the company proposed two possible future dates to meet, pending Cabinet Budget Review Committee (CBRC) approval for its bargaining framework - the two dates suggested were 3 July or 24 July.

The company says that this timeframe to meet is because it is seeking CBRC approval before it can present its framework or 'package' to the SBU.

The SBU sought a meeting in two weeks time as per the company's previous commitment to discuss the following;

- Non contentious clauses;
- Discussion issues of interpretation with current clauses;
- Clauses which are cost neutral; and
- Clauses which are not encompassed by the government owned corporations wages policy.

The company has given a commitment to get back to the SBU by the cob of Tuesday 17 June to respond to our request to meet.

Delegate Rights

The ETU has sought additional delegates at the table during the negotiations. The company has said it will allow the ETU 4 delegates at the table. The ETU has flagged ongoing concerns regarding this issue.

Venue

The company has said it does not object to a request for a neutral venue and Alan Border Field has been flagged as the likely venue pending availability.

A Neutral Facilitator

A neutral facilitator has been agreed to by the company. The SBU and the company will now enter into a discussion about who that will be.

Different this time

The unions did not understand why 'discussions' could not occur until CBRC approval had been obtained when in the past CBRC approval was only sought at the end of the process. The company said today that the negotiations will be different this time around – there is a 'new government, a new wages policy - it's different.'

Further Information

For further information contact your Union.