



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWS Requests the FSIP Resolve CBA Provisions

(December 20, 2019) In August 2019, the NWS broke off negotiations on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with NWSEO and refused our request to remain at the bargaining table, even though we made it clear that we were willing to make further compromises. Yesterday, at the direction of the Department of Commerce, the NWS requested that the Federal Service Impasses Panel (FSIP) resolve the many remaining disputed provisions of the CBA rather than continuing to bargain with NWSEO.

NWSEO will ask the FSIP not to take jurisdiction over this because we are not at impasse. The existence of an impasse must be proved by the party asserting it; it is not enough for one side to say that it is at impasse because it is not willing to compromise further. An impasse does not exist merely because one party is unwilling to capitulate immediately and settle on the other party's unchanged terms. For a true impasse to occur, neither party must be willing to compromise. It is not sufficient for a finding of impasse simply to show that the agency "lost patience" with the NWSEO.

If the FSIP does take jurisdiction over the matter, it usually takes six months or so to make a decision. NWSEO members will still have the opportunity to vote whether to ratify the agreement after the FSIP decision.

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

**No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

We are NWSEO.