



## **Federal Service Impasses Panel Asserts Jurisdiction over NWS-NWSEO Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations**

(March 24, 2020) The United States Federal Service Impasses Panel (“the Panel”) has notified NWSEO and NWS that it is asserting jurisdiction over the 42 open articles on which NWS claims that an impasse in bargaining exists in the Parties’ successor Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

The Panel directed that the impasse be resolved through written submissions using the following procedure:

1. By Monday, March 30, 2020, each party shall submit to the other its final offer on the issues at impasse and a written statement of position to the Panel.
2. By Friday, April 10, 2020, each party shall submit its written rebuttal statement to the Panel.
3. After considering the entire record, the Panel shall take whatever action it deems appropriate to resolve the dispute, which may include the issuance of a binding decision. The Panel said that in such a case, it was likely to select and impose the entirety of one party’s proposal for a particular article rather than selecting provisions in a piecemeal fashion.
4. The parties may seek a voluntary settlement at any time prior to the issuance of the Panel’s decision and should immediately notify the Panel of any such agreement.

Due to the short turn around and lack of available resources as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, NWSEO requested NWS join the Union in requesting an extension to the deadlines imposed above. This would allow the Parties more time to find articles that with minor changes they could come to agreement on, and to make their arguments on those they cannot. While we wait for that response, NWSEO is busy crafting our final proposals and our statement of position.

After the Panel’s decision (likely in one to two months), NWSEO will submit the final contract to its membership for a ratification vote, in accordance with the CBA Ground Rules agreed upon by NWSEO and NWS.

**No one cares more for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
(NOAA) employees than NOAA employees.**

**No one works harder for NOAA employees than NOAA employees.**

**We are NOAA employees. We are NWSEO.**

*NWSEO proudly represents more NOAA employees than any other Union. NWSEO serves bargaining unit employees of the National Weather Service, NESDIS Office of Satellite and Product Operations, Office of General Counsel, Aircraft Operations Center, and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory.*