

**AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION
AND
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

On May 8, 2003, representatives of the above parties met with representatives of the Federal Labor Relations Authority's Collaboration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (CADR) Program to discuss the resolution of the underlying issues involved in National Weather Service Employees Organization and United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, Case No. 0-NG-2713.

As a result of the May 8, 2003 session, the parties have agreed to the following:

- 1. The National Weather Service (NWS) will notify by Email all GS-9 and GS-11 interns of each General Forecaster Vacancy prior to issuing a vacancy announcement in order to assess their interest in applying for the position. The NWS and National Weather Service Employees Organization (parties) will jointly develop the language of a standard notification to be sent to GS-9 and GS-11 interns, which will be signed by both parties.**
- 2. Any GS-9 or GS-11 intern who has an interest in the vacancy shall respond within seven (7) calendar days after notice has been sent. Each party will have equal access to the reply.**
- 3. If three (3) or more GS-9 or GS-11 interns express an interest, the vacancy will initially be advertised to status candidates only. If no status candidate is selected by the selecting official after serious consideration of the candidates on the selection certificate, the NWS may re-advertise to all sources.**
- 4. If less than three (3) GS-9 or GS-11 interns express an interest, the NWS may advertise the vacancy announcement to all sources.**
- 5. The parties agree that this procedure will be implemented by June 2, 2003 barring unforeseen technical circumstances.**
- 6. This agreement does not require the NWS to issue any vacancy announcement for which interest has been solicited nor does it preclude the NWS from canceling any vacancy announcement.**

The parties agreed that in light of the agreement reached during the May 8, 2003 session the Union withdraws its petition for review pending before the Federal Labor Relations Authority in Case No. 0-NG-2713.

For the Union:

//s//

Paul T. Greaves

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Daniel A. Sobien

//s//

Peter J. Nuhn

//s//

Richard J. Hirn

5/8/2003

DATE

For the Agency:

//s//

Elise B. Steinberg

//s//

Irwin T. David

//s//

Mickey J. Brown

//s//

Richard H. Douglas