

Major Labor Union Ratifies Contract; Agreement Benefits Employees While Helping PPL Control Costs

PRNewswire-FirstCall
ALLENTOWN, Pa.

Members of Local 1600 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union have voted to ratify a new, four-year labor contract with PPL Corporation, company officials said Thursday (6/13).

(Photo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/19981015/PHTH025>)

Local 1600 represents more than 4,000 PPL employees at company operations in Pennsylvania. It is the largest of the company's labor unions.

"This contract is an important step toward ensuring PPL's competitiveness in coming years," said Ron Schwarz, PPL's vice president-Human Resources. "It benefits our employees while helping us control our operating costs."

"In ratifying this agreement, our members recognized that we all share in the goal of helping PPL continue to be successful, which, in turn, creates value for our union members," said Ron Tomasko, president and financial secretary of Local 1600.

The contract provides for wage increases of 3.5 percent in the first year and increases of 3.4 percent, 3.5 percent and 3.45 percent in subsequent years. It also provides for improvements in retirement benefits and in the employee savings plan.

Importantly, the contract includes modifications in health care provisions that will ensure quality health care coverage for employees while helping PPL control rising health care costs. The contract also includes changes in work rules that will help PPL operate more efficiently.

PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL), headquartered in Allentown, Pa., controls or owns more than 10,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States, sells energy in key U.S. markets, and delivers electricity to nearly 6 million customers in Pennsylvania, the United Kingdom and Latin America.

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