



Local Union 97

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

New York State

January 17, 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you know, there has been an ongoing dilemma for National Grid workers under the Gas Ops umbrella (GFO & CMS) in regards to Operator Qualification Testing. These State-required tests have recently changed and caused problems for our members. In some cases, these tests have resulted in employees being forced out of the department.

As a result, Local 97 reached out and challenged National Grid's senior leadership to address these concerns and make it right. After much discussion with the Company, I am pleased to announce that Operator Qualification Testing will undergo positive changes with respect to the number of attempts, as well as the time frame for these tests, and retests. Moving forward, in the event of a third Op-Qual failure, our members will not be forced to bid out in 60 days.

GFO and CMS workers will, instead, remain in their respective departments. After waiting a required 6-month period (per the PSC) they will have the opportunity to re-take the failed Op-Qual(s) 3 more times.

During the 6-month period there may be one of several other temporary consequences, as has always been the case, per National Grid NYS Operator Qualification Plan. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis at the local level.

This win for Local 97 should help alleviate some of the stress and anxiety that our members have endured during the mounting pressures of AET and all its recent changes and difficulties.

In Solidarity,

Michael T. Shelby
President/Business Manager
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