



IBEW 193's CWLP Position Statement

The City of Springfield and CWLP are set up and operated as separate entities. There are two independent budgets, two funding mechanisms and two administrations. **Similar to many businesses in the private sector that tout the advantages of employee ownership, CWLP is in reality owned by the customers they serve in Springfield.**

In good faith, the IBEW 193, representing their CWLP members, negotiated a contract that specifically and clearly lays out the terms of employment, including wages, benefits, and approved layoff procedures.

These approved layoff procedures may occur under 1 of the following 2 conditions.

Condition 1: CWLP does not have enough money to continue its current operations.

Condition 2: CWLP does not have enough work to keep its current level of union members.

It is IBEW 193's belief that neither one of these conditions have been met. CWLP has enough operating money, and enough work to meet their contractual obligations to the members of IBEW 193. The current power requirements of CWLP customers in Springfield are being met and by design, the money generated from these customers pays **all** the bills. **Through a City of Springfield ordinance, the utility rates set by CWLP must cover the costs and expenses of its current operations in providing utility service to its current customers. IBEW 193 is also a customer of CWLP.**

IBEW 193 has made repeated efforts to obtain the most up-to-date and independently audited and verified financial information available. This financial information reads much like the financials of a business and include balance sheets, income and expense statements, officer and employee salaries, cash on hand statements, and long-term debt and savings statements. All customers, including IBEW 193, have a right to review these statements from their utility company.

The money saved through the IBEW 193 CWLP member layoffs WILL NOT benefit the City of Springfield because CWLP and the City are two separate entities. This money will not be allowed into the City of Springfield's budget and will be of no help to its budget crisis.

During the Summer of 2009, before the budget crisis spiraled out of control, the members of IBEW 193 actively went to the City of Springfield and CWLP with detailed, specific **plans and ideas to cut waste and eliminate any excess spending and to actively increase the operational efficiency of CWLP without service interruption**. It is our belief that had these plans and ideas been discussed and implemented 7 months ago, we may have been able to avoid these layoffs completely.

More recently, **the IBEW 193 members offered to voluntarily take unpaid leaves of absence and unpaid days off over the remaining time of the current contract. It is our belief that acceptance of these measures by CWLP and the City of Springfield may have avoided these layoffs, all without reopening our agreed upon contract.**

However, these offers were all rejected by the City of Springfield and by CWLP. Therefore, 57 of our highly trained and skilled IBEW 193 members have been laid off. Through all of this, IBEW 193 will continue to look for ways to make our utility more efficient and less wasteful. We stand ready to use our skills, knowledge and experience into running CWLP smoothly and without service disruption.

CWLP is a customer owned utility. We encourage all customers to take the time to review their utility rates and to exercise their rights to find out the financial health of their utility. Our utility rates are very competitive compared to the surrounding cities and states. It is up to us to help keep it that way.

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