

NEWS RELEASE



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers® AFL-CIO-CLC

900 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20001

www.ibew.org

Edwin D. Hill, International President

Lindell K. Lee, International Secretary-Treasurer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Dennis Slaman (201) 587-7677

IBEW and CWA Reach Settlement with Avaya

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The IBEW and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) announced that they reached a tentative three-year agreement with Avaya on June 3.

The new agreement provides continuing company-funded medical insurance to active employees and retirees represented by the unions. Avaya originally proposed that workers pay a portion of their health insurance premiums, but negotiators held firm.

"This agreement sends a clear message that unions will continue to work against the idea of shifting more of the cost of health care to workers," said IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill.

The agreement, which affects workers from 13 IBEW locals in New England, New Jersey, Illinois and Montana, provides for a \$1,250 lump sum pay increase this year, plus raises of 2.75 percent in 2010 and 2011. It also provides a 4-percent pension increase for active workers, and guarantees no layoffs for nine months.

"This agreement meets the real needs of our workers and retirees," said Dennis Slaman, head of the bargaining team and chief steward for East Windsor, N.J., Local 827. "It addresses many important issues and guarantees we won't have to pay more for our families to get medical care."

The IBEW represents 126 active workers at Avaya and about 1,500 retirees. The tentative agreement must be ratified with a vote by members of each affected local union by July 22. Those locals include: Downers Grove, Ill., Local 21; Chicago Local 134; Helena, Mont., Local 206; East Windsor, N.J., Local 827; Boston Local 2222; Manchester, N.H., Local 2320; Middleton, Mass., Local 2321; Middleboro, Mass., Local 2322; Cranston, R.I., Local 2323; Springfield, Mass., Local 2324; Worcester, Mass., Local 2325; Montpelier, Vt., Local 2326; and Augusta, Maine, Local 2327.