

Trenton P&DC



January 10, 2022

Steven Duckworth
President, APWU Trenton Metro Area Local
P.O. Box 8011
Trenton, NJ 08650

George Gohr
Trenton P&DC Branch President
NPMHU Local 308
680 Hwy 130
Trenton, NJ 08650

Gentlemen,

This letter is in reference to the staffing of the Linear Spider machine, a new machine anticipated to be installed at Trenton P&DC beginning on January 24, 2022. In accordance with the principles of RI-399, the Local Dispute Resolution Committee met on Thursday January 6, 2022, to allow all parties input before a staffing determination was made.

The Linear Spider is designed to support sortation of parcels to 3 digit and 5 digit zones. This is accomplished by first unloading containers of mail via a dumper/unloader onto a conveyor belt that then feeds an ergonomic work cell. This work cell allows the operator to manually sort the product down one of four or five discharges with the help of an overhead scanner. From these discharges, employees further sort the parcels into appropriate mail transport equipment (gaylords, Post-Cons, etc.) for dispatch.

No similar operation currently exists in Trenton P&DC, and there is currently no national craft determination for the Linear Spider. It is anticipated that this machine will most closely replace the manual sortation of parcels currently performed in the bullpen operation. Additionally, I considered the input received from the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union; and have considered the principles of RI-399. It has been determined that the primary craft to perform all work associated with this piece of equipment is the mail handler craft. This determination will allow for the most efficient and effective operation of the machine. The actual number of employees required to perform these duties at any time will be determined based on operational needs.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, Update of Regional Instructions (RI) 399 Procedures, dated June 26, 2018, the above stated craft designation will go into full effect no sooner than 45 days from your receipt of this notice.

All other duties in support of the Linear Spider but not directly related in the performance of the machine are subject to the current local RI-399 craft jurisdiction duties.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John M. Seery 1/10/22

John M. Seery
Chairman, Local Dispute Resolution Committee
Trenton P&DC

Cc: RI-399 LDRC members
Labor Relations
File