

**From:** Joann Conaway [<mailto:joanneconaway@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** Howatt, Robert (DOS)  
**Subject:** FW: One more.....

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From: [RickIBEW126@aol.com](mailto:RickIBEW126@aol.com)  
Date: Wed, 10 Jun 2015 13:06:08 -0400  
Subject: One more.....  
To: [bryan.blazejak@delmarva.com](mailto:bryan.blazejak@delmarva.com)

Bryan,

Although we have so many, this will be the last one I send. Our contractor was low bidder on this particular job, but this merit contractor told us they were asked to come in and lower their price for the job. It appears lowering their price included lowering the safety requirements for the job. There were no flag people, just one ground worker who occasionally went out in the road to stop traffic, with no flagging certifications, if the contractor needed a lane, no grounds or line hose while operating putting a pole in next to energized transmission, no signs on the road anywhere. Employees were forced to work around unsecured loads while working with a crane, no less, no tag lines on the unsecured load to try and guide it. These are pictures are from both angles, as you can see.

Additionally on a few of these pictures I sent, The most important part is that the structure is not bonded with EPZ Brackets to make a true EPZ Zone. Which, when they go to lift the unsecured phases off the pole they will be exposing themselves to potential differences which could lead to a deadly contact incident depending on the level of induction present. This is a violation of 1926.269 (n)(3)

(Equipotential zone. Temporary protective grounds shall be placed at such locations and arranged in such a manner that the employer can demonstrate will prevent each employee from being exposed to hazardous differences in electric potential. )

As you can see by these pictures, our representatives were pretty far from the action, just snapping pictures. Did we talk to organizing workers on breaks as per the law? Absolutely. But not once do we approach them or our members while working.

Our relationship with PEPCO/Excelon is extremely important to us here at IBEW Local Union 126. We do not put ourselves or these workforces in danger, but they do an awfully good job themselves as we get reports weekly of all the accidents from workers trying to organize. They are forced to work this way by employers looking to save money, even if it costs an outage or an injury. I have not even begun to address our safety concerns we see every day by these contractors working on Delmarva property. But please do not get our passion for safety and workers rights confused with "merit contractors" unsafe working conditions. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Rick Fridell  
IBEW Local Union 126  
Business/Membership Development  
Representative



