

NOV 22 2021

LABOR RELATIONS



November 19, 2021

Mr. Ivan Butts
President
National Association of Postal
Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Dear Mr. Butts:

The Postal Service proposes to upgrade its material handling equipment (i.e. forklifts, tow tractors, and electric pallet jacks) from conventional lead-acid batteries to hydrogen fuel cells (HFC) at the Brooklyn P&DC and New Jersey NDC facilities.

Currently, the material handling equipment is powered by lead-acid batteries which are expensive to purchase and replace, costly to maintain, short lived, require a vast amount of electricity to charge, and pose environmental risk and compliance costs because of the sulfuric acid contained within the battery.

Some significant benefits of transitioning from conventional lead-acid batteries to a hydrogen fuel cell system include the following:

- Increased Productivity – fuel cells maintain constant power, resulting in materials handling equipment running at full speed throughout an entire shift.
- Lower Operational Costs – fuel cells eliminate the need to charge and manage batteries.
- Zero emissions – fuel cells produce zero harmful emissions and eliminates the costs associated with handling and storing toxic materials found in battery operations.
- More Commercial Space – compact hydrogen fueling stations will replace large battery charging rooms and stations.
- No Charging or Changing batteries – it takes only two minutes to refuel a hydrogen fuel cell compared to the required 15 minutes per shift to charge conventional batteries.

Once powered industrial vehicles (PIVs) are transitioned to the HFC system, the number of conventional batteries required to be charged will decrease. Mail Handler employees will be trained on refueling PIVs at the HFC stations.

The Brooklyn P&DC currently has 73 pieces of PIV equipment, of which 55 pieces are eligible for HFC conversion. Seven pallet jacks will continue to operate with conventional lead-acid batteries and the remaining 11 pieces of equipment are autonomous guided vehicles.

The New Jersey NDC currently has 233 pieces of PIV equipment. However, the equipment piece count may fluctuate based on recent network realignment.

The project to install the infrastructure necessary to convert to the HFC system is scheduled to begin January 2022. We anticipate deployment and conversion to the HFC system in late June or early July 2022. Implementation of the HFC system will be simultaneous at both facilities.

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have any questions concerning this matter or would like to meet to discuss the proposed changes.

Sincerely,



David E. Mills
Director
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

