



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL  
ENGINEERS, LOCAL 97**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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One would think that an action this serious would require total commitment by Corps of Engineers' leadership. But the train wreck that is the restructuring of the Columbia Basin Water Management Organization at Northwestern Division was set in motion without the authorizing signature of any competent authority whatsoever. In response to the Union's request for documentation of the decision, management provided only the minutes from the September 6-7 meeting of the Northwestern Division Command Council. Item 10 of those minutes refers to Brigadier General Greg Martin's full support of the conclusion to reorganize based upon anecdotal statements of support from other Corps' leaders. No rationale was presented, no improvements were claimed, and no decision memorandum was published; just meeting minutes.

"This may not seem important, but it is; it demonstrates lack of rigor by an agency entrusted with developing and maintaining National infrastructure at taxpayer expense. Where we would have expected publication and signature of a permanent order, we get meeting minutes," said Gordon Taxer, IFPTE Local 97 President, "This becomes systemic; the news is full of examples:

"Major infrastructure failures at locks and dams, such as navigation locks and turbine generators,

"New Orleans levee and flood wall failures,

"No-bid Contracts without adequate supervision, and

"Neglected jetties and coastal harbors."

"By continuing to pursue its misguided plan to restructure the Water Management Function for Columbia River Basin, the Northwestern Division Corps of Engineers is pursuing another failure," added Taxer.

The Northwestern Division Reservoir Control Center in Portland has regulated Columbia Basin river operations for some 40 years to prevent floods, generate hydropower, protect fish and wildlife, and provide navigation, recreation, irrigation, and municipal water supplies, while adding value to the region.

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IFPTE Local 97 represents approximately 120 professional and administrative employees of the Northwestern Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, located in Portland, Oregon and Omaha, Nebraska responsible for water resources development throughout the Columbia and Missouri River Basins and military construction throughout the northern states west of the Mississippi River.