

STATE OF WASHINGTON

BEFORE THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

In the matter of the petition of:

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

For clarification of an existing bargaining unit
represented by:

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 690

CASE 138841-C-24

DECISION 13860 - PECB

ORDER CLARIFYING BARGAINING
UNIT

Taj Wilkerson, Business Agent, for Teamsters Local 690.

Peter A. Altman, Attorney at Law, Summit Law Group PLLC, for the Spokane
County Fire District 8.

On April 4, 2024, Spokane County Fire District 8 (employer) filed a petition to clarify a bargaining unit of part-time firefighters represented by Teamsters Local 690 (union). The union's bargaining unit is currently described as "All part-time firefighters employed by Spokane County Fire District 8, excluding full-time uniformed firefighters, confidential employees, supervisors, and all other employees." *Spokane Fire District 8, Decision 12061-A (PECB, 2014)*. At the time the bargaining unit was certified, there were approximately 26 employees in the unit.

The employer asserts that the part-time firefighters bargaining unit is no longer appropriate under RCW 41.56.060 and WAC 391-35-330 because the employer ceased using the part-time firefighter designation and there are no longer any part-time firefighters employed by the district. The employer also has no plans to employ or utilize part-time firefighters in the future. The union does not oppose the employer's petition.

ANALYSIS

This agency has the authority to define new bargaining units of employees and to modify existing bargaining units to ensure their continued appropriateness. RCW 41.56.060. A one-person unit is inappropriate for collective bargaining. *Port of Bellingham*, Decision 1570-A (PECB, 1983). The agency codified this standard in 2001 when it adopted WAC 391-35-330. That rule states that “[a] bargaining unit cannot be considered appropriate if it includes only one employee.”

The parties agree that there are no part-time firefighters remaining in the employer’s workforce. Additionally, the employer has no intention of utilizing the part-time firefighter designation or hiring any part-time firefighters in the near future. Because no positions remain in the bargaining unit, that unit is inappropriate under RCW 41.56.060 and WAC 391-35-330. The part-time firefighters bargaining unit is officially dissolved to avoid any lingering confusion about the status of that bargaining unit.

ORDER

The certification issued by the Public Employment Relations Commission in *Spokane Fire District 8*, Decision 12061-A (PECB, 2014), is revoked.

ISSUED at Olympia, Washington, this 30th day of May, 2024.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MICHAEL P. SELLARS, Executive Director

This order will be the final order of the agency unless a notice of appeal is filed with the Commission under WAC 391-35-210.



RECORD OF SERVICE

ISSUED ON 05/30/2024

DECISION 13860 - PECB has been served by mail and electronically by the Public Employment Relations Commission to the parties and their representatives listed below.

BY: DEBBIE BATES

CASE 138841-C-24

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