

Labor Dispute Heats Up

In late January, the Builders Association was given notice of grievances by the Operating Engineers against five Association companies. The grievances dealt with the monitoring of temporary heaters on the jobsites in question — work that Laborers were doing on most sites but that the Operators claimed as part of the contract.

As with any other jurisdictional dispute or labor issue, the Builders Association went into action for its members. Labor Director Denise Herdrich contacted lawyers and unions on behalf of these companies, and kept grieved contractors in the loop by informing them of developments as the issue progressed.

The issue reached a stalemate at the Joint Grievance Committee hearing in May, and is likely to sent to an arbitrator.

Timeline

Late January

The Builders Association receives notice from five companies of grievances filed against them by the Operating Engineers. Association contacts attorney Steve Adelman of Lord Bissell & Brook LLP.

Early February

Adelman reviews Laborers and Operators contracts.

Early March

Laborers attorney contacted. MARBA Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee meets. Builders Association keeps affected members apprised of progress.

Mid-March

Scheduled 10K hearing on grievances is canceled. Builders Association helps set up conference call with attorneys, MARBA Joint Grievance Committee and affected contractors.

Late March

Laborers get in contact with grieved contractors.

Mid-May

A solution wasn't reached in front of a Joint Grievance Committee, meaning the matter is likely to go arbitration.