



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES  
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS CONCIL #53  
Affiliated with the AFL – CIO  
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Paul Fleming, Chair  
Jackson VARO  
1600 E Woodrow  
Wilson Ave  
Jackson MS 39216

Geneva Moore, Member  
Winston-Salem VARO  
251 N Main St  
Winston-Salem NC 27155

Fred Sacchi, Member  
Providence, VARO  
380 Westminster St  
Providence RI 02903

Bettie Belcher, Member  
Detroit VARO  
477 Michigan Ave  
Detroit, MI 48226

Stanley Walton Member  
St Paul VARO  
1 Federal Drive  
St Paul, MN 55111

*Mr. Kevin Nelson, Chief Negotiator  
VBA Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)  
Department of Veterans Affairs*

April 1, 2021

**Subject** Blue Water Navy (BWN) - Nehmer Project

This is a demand to bargain (DTB) filed under the provisions of Article 47, Sections 1 and 2 of the Master Agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), signed March 15, 2011 (MCBA) with respect to the above referenced subject.

The VBA Midterm Bargaining Committee received notice on March 31, 2021 of the Department's plan to implement a Nehmer project to review approximately 60,492 Blue Water Navy (BWN) case. The project will involve 14 ROs (not identified in notice) to assist with the adjudication. AFGE requests a briefing on this matter, in order to determine if we need to bargain over the Procedures and Appropriate Arrangements for the employees we represent.

**Any and all implementation already begun should be stopped and VA should cease and desist any further implementation until bargaining has been concluded.**

**Please provide any and all necessary and relevant documents relied upon related to the above subject to the VBA midterm bargaining team, including applicable ASPEN and WATRS information from all testing.**

**VA shall cease and desist from any and all implementation of the proposed initiative until the bargaining obligation has been satisfied.** Please provide any and all information related to the above subject to the VBA midterm bargaining team no later than 3 days before the briefing. The VA chief negotiator should contact the undersigned no less than 7 days from the receipt of this DTB.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (601)-364-7107 (or by electronic mail at [VBACommunication@afgenvac.org](mailto:VBACommunication@afgenvac.org))

In Solidarity,

Paul Fleming

Chair, VBAMTBC

Cc: Alma L. Lee, President, National Veterans Affairs Council #53, AFGE NVAC Executive Committee  
Brian Fralin, Paul Fleming, Geneva Moore, Fred Sacchi, Stanley Walton, Bettie Belcher, and David Bump