



NEWS RELEASE

**FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
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FMCS Statement on Tentative Agreement Between Pantex/Consolidated Nuclear Security (CNS) And the Amarillo Metal Trades Council

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Allison Beck, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), issued the following statement today on the announcement that a tentative agreement had been reached in negotiations between Pantex/Consolidated Nuclear Security (CNS) and the Amarillo Metal Trades Council in Amarillo, TX, bringing a possible end to a strike that began August 28 by 1,200 workers at the nuclear facility.

FMCS Deputy Director Scot Beckenbaugh had mediated talks between the parties since September 16, when Director Beck called labor and management representatives back to the bargaining table.

“These were difficult and stressful negotiations for the employer and union representatives,” she said. “This tentative agreement is the result of many long days and many late nights for both sides. In their discussions, labor and management were faced with complex issues and some very tough choices, which they were dedicated to resolving. Thanks to their efforts, we now have reason to hope normal operations will soon be restored at this vital facility,” Ms. Beck stated.

In addition to recognizing the work of the negotiating teams, Ms. Beck also commended FMCS Deputy Director Scot Beckenbaugh for his role in assisting the parties. “Both sides were looking for a way to bridge the differences that have divided them, and after many days of hard work by all concerned, Scot was able to help them find a path,” she said. “We extend our thanks to the parties for their cooperation with the FMCS, and we are pleased to have been of help.”

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The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and more than 60 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.