

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

Promoting Catholic Social Teaching on the Indispensable Role of Unions for Every Profession

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March 12, 2010

Mr. James Casella
Chairman and CEO
Asset International
805 Third Ave. 21st Floor
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Casella,

I write to you on behalf of Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice to withdraw the award for excellence in benefits to be offered to NV Energy on March 25, 2010 in New York City.

NV Energy has both a moral and historical obligation to bargain with the union that has represented their employees and retirees for 65 years. Acting unilaterally to slash retiree medical benefits is a betrayal of the good faith service rendered by these employees. The work they performed—restoring power under sometimes extreme conditions—was physically demanding and even dangerous. To abandon these workers when they no longer seem to be of value is not a responsible course for a company of the size, stature, and profitability of NV Energy.

NV Energy is enjoying very healthy profits—\$180 million in 2009. NV Energy also recently received \$134 million in federal stimulus money. NV Energy has been able to reward its top executive with substantial bonuses. How, then, can this company justify forcing painful sacrifices on the employees who built the company with their labor—sometimes at the expense of their health?

NV Energy's insistence on shifting all future costs of medical inflation onto the backs of its retirees is a policy that lacks courage, consistency, compassion, or any sense of constructive engagement. Indeed, it is downright immoral.

The public spectacle of retirees demonstrating against your "award winner"—who has so recently acted to deprive these senior citizens of benefits they had been promised—is surely not in the best interests of your organization or the other honorees in attendance on March 25.

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice urges you to preserve the integrity of your award for excellence by withdrawing your offer to NV Energy.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph J. Fahey, Ph.D.
Chairperson
Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

CC: Michael Yackira, NV Energy
Tom Dalzell, IBEW Local 1245