

## An Email from Steve Early Staff rep

(2nd site update today please read all newer updates. 05/12/2006)

Sent: Thu, 11 May 2006 9:55:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Info on May 25 mtg to plan fightback against VZ sell-off of Vt.,NH, ME...

2222 Mobilization Coordinator Dave Reardon arranged today with T-6 chair Myles Calvey and T-6 council members to make the following arrangements:

Our IBEW-CWA strategy and planning session for the campaign to stop the dismantling of Verizon in New England will be on :

- Thursday, May 25
- 10 am to 2 p.m.
- IBEW Local 2320 Hall
- 46 Third St. Manchester, N.H.
- (603-669-8657)

IBEW and CWA local officers, board members, mobilization coordinators, stewards, etc - in the three affected states--are all invited to attend (if they can get off work to do so). We're also inviting state AFL-CIO folks, JWW organizers, and reps from other locals in the region.

D-1 Legislative/Political Director Bob Master will be at the meeting to report on the lessons of the 2004-5 CWA-IBEW campaign against the sell off of 2.6 million access lines in upstate New York. We'll discuss how we can duplicate this successful effort through mobilization of 3,100+ IBEW and CWA members, their families, labor and community allies in northern New England. Bob will bring sample materials from that campaign--which will also be forwarded to participating locals before the 25th so we can start adapting them to local use.

Some promising political outreach is already underway. In Maine, Local 1400 V-P Anne Mussenden is working through the state fed to enlist Gov. John Balducci and his utility commission chair in this fight. D-1 and Vermont constituents of Bernie Sanders have already been in touch with the office of Congressman (soon to be U.S. Senator) Sanders. The Vermont Department of Public Service is saying it "will look closely at the terms of any deal" --particularly if Citizens Communications is a possible buyer because it "does not have a good track record with Vermont regulators."

But there is much more that needs to be done--to defend jobs, our union contracts, and the future of universal service in northern New England. Bring your ideas, contacts, suggestions, and reports of campaign activity already underway to the meeting on May 25!

For more information, call Dave Reardon at the IBEW 2222 (978-729-6944) or Steve Early (617-930-7327) and Paul Bouchard (781-937-9600) at CWA District 1.