

For Immediate Release

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Department of Labor finds wage violations on Indiana University – South Bend Student Housing Project by Sterling Group subcontractor Eggendorfer Electric.

South Bend, Indiana - July 31, 2009 - On May 14, 2009 the Indiana Department of Labor concluded an audit of the wage records of three former employees of Egendoerfer Electric on the Indiana University South Bend Student Housing project constructed in 2007 and 2008 on the former Playland Golf Course across the river from the IUSB campus. The DOL issued a finding of violations of the Indiana Common Construction Wage in amounts totaling \$39,031.72 against Egendoerfer Electric.

Egendoerfer Electric was a subcontractor of the Sterling Construction Corporation of Mishawaka, the General Contractor on the IUSB dormitory project. Both Sterling Group and Indiana University made assurances to the St. Joseph Valley Building and Construction Trades in an article in the South Bend Tribune August 7, 2007 that all the workers on the Student Housing project were being properly paid, and that they did not feel the need to request certified payroll to verify actual paid wages.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Local 153 has been working along with the Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting and an attorney to obtain wages owed to the former employees of Eggendorfer Electric. The IBEW is also investigating claims by these employees that there were additional violations of the Indiana Common Construction Wage on the project, and possibly employees paid in cash.

The IBEW believes that now that three of the former employees have been found to be owed monies by the company, more individuals will step forward with documentation showing that the violations were wide spread. The IBEW is also compiling a list of alleged electrical and building codes violations the workers say were knowingly committed by Egendoerfer supervision in order to cut the contractors costs.

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