

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2021

Contact:

Eben M. Wyman

(703) 740-6126

eben@wymanassociates.net

Vaccine Mandate Will Impede Broadband Deployment

Churchton, Md. – Members of the Power & Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) expressed strong concerns with the sweeping new federal vaccine requirements laid out by President Biden on September 9. These mandates apply to up to 100 million Americans – private-sector and federal employees as well as employees of federal contractors. Through rulemaking being developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, the president announced that all employers with 100 or more employees will be required to ensure that their employees are vaccinated for Covid-19 or tested weekly. The president went a step further through executive order, requiring vaccinations for all federal workers, including those who work for federal contractors. Other stipulations described by the president require employers to provide paid time off for employees to get vaccinated or to “recover if under the weather post vaccination.”

“While there may be varying opinions about vaccinations, PCCA is not anti-vaccine,” said Bob Breeden, president of ElectriCom, Inc., of Paoli, Ind., and PCCA chairman. “What we do oppose is vaccination mandates coming from the federal government. Our members know what’s best for their employees and provide for exceptionally safe and healthy workplaces in an industry that carries a range of hazards.”

“Along with strong concerns about mandating vaccinations, PCCA also questions the wisdom of subjecting these requirements to only companies with 100 or more employees,” said Tim Wagner, PCCA president and CEO. “If the federal government is going to mandate vaccines, they should apply it to those working for companies of any size, or to unemployed Americans, for that matter.”

The president’s announcement seems to present more questions than answers, according to PCCA leaders. “The White House needs to provide a lot more clarity if the president expects a realistic implementation of these new mandates,” Breeden said. “Who will incur the cost of conducting, documenting, and administering tests in smaller companies who may opt for weekly tests? Which companies will be considered ‘federal contractors?’ Those working on an infrastructure project that is funded in *any* way by federal dollars? As described by the president, these mandates will lead to unnecessary job cuts and resignations at a time when the expansion of several infrastructure markets is within reach and construction workers are needed most.”

###

The Power & Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) represents contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers who build and repair America’s power and communications infrastructure, including electric transmission, distribution, and substation facilities and broadband, telephone, and cable television systems.