

**Willamette Industries, Inc., Durafake Division and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 280, AFL-CIO, Petitioner. Case 36-RC-5742**

January 10, 1997

DECISION ON REVIEW AND ORDER

BY CHAIRMAN GOULD AND MEMBERS  
BROWNING, FOX, AND HIGGINS

The Board has considered the Employer's request for review of the Acting Regional Director's Decision and Direction of Election. The request for review is granted solely with respect to the direction of a mail-ballot election. In all other respects, the Employer's request for review is denied.

Contrary to the Decision, under existing Board precedent and policy the applicable presumption favors a manual election, not a mail-ballot election. See NLRB Casehandling Manual (Part Two), Representation Proceedings, section 11336. In the instant case, we find that the Acting Regional Director erred in directing, *sua sponte*, a mail ballot. The sole factor cited in

favor of a mail ballot, that the Employer's facility is approximately 80 miles from the Board's office, alone is insufficient to justify a departure from the normal manual election procedure in light of the fact that the unit employees work at a single site.

ORDER

We therefore reverse the Acting Regional Director's direction of a mail-ballot election, and direct that a manual election be conducted. In view of these rulings, the Employer's motion to stay the election is moot.

CHAIRMAN GOULD, concurring.

I join in the majority opinion because there is nothing in the record from which one could conclude that the Acting Regional Director's ordering of a postal ballot would constitute an efficient use of Board resources. Accordingly, the record does not establish that the resources of the Regional Office have been burdened. Presented with a record establishing such a burden, I would conclude that the Acting Regional Director did not abuse his discretion in ordering a postal ballot. But those facts are not presented in this record.