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Citing progress in talks, green group cancels NSTAR shareholder protest

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 7, 2011 12:06 PM [E-mail](#) | [Print](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

After two months of planning, a local jobs and environmental advocacy coalition cancelled a protest at an NSTAR shareholder meeting in Boston, citing "rapid progress in negotiations over energy efficiency programs."

"We are postponing Friday's [Mar. 4] action because NSTAR is working with us," [Green Justice Coalition](#) leader and Executive Director of New England United 4 Justice Noemi Ramos said in a statement.

The Boston-based coalition is a [partnership](#) of over 50 community labor unions, environmental groups and other organizations from across Massachusetts. Launched in late 2008, the alliance bills itself as "a campaign to bring home energy efficiency upgrades and jobs to Boston's low-income communities and communities of color."

Coalition members had planned to demonstrate and pass out leaflets in an effort to educate NSTAR shareholders about the group's cause at a meeting held by the electric company in the Prudential Center last week.

"We will help [NSTAR] remove the barriers that are keeping working class communities from weatherizing their homes," Ramos added. "Further, NSTAR is bringing in the other utilities so the solutions cover all Massachusetts ratepayers. We are pleased with NSTAR's willingness to work with the community. So far it is looking good, and in the next few months we hope to see real results."

The coalition says it is trying to make weatherization accessible to all state residents through outreach and marketing, fair financing, access to weatherization program data, and advocating for weatherization jobs that hire local residents.

The Green Justice Coalition is also advocating for reforms through NSTAR's merger application before the Department of Public Utilities. Coalition leaders told that department in January testimony and filing that "any merger deal must provide access to energy efficiency programs, fair financing, and good jobs," the release said.

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