

Daily News March 14, 2007

NBC unions: We're being 30 Rocked in move deal

A CITY DEAL that will help MSNBC move from New Jersey to Rockefeller Center was criticized as a Trojan horse yesterday by union officials who fear several full-time jobs will be eliminated.

Leaders of the stagehands and technicians unions reacted angrily after the city's Industrial Development Agency approved a package of tax breaks for MSNBC's parent NBC Universal.

NBC will move 421 MSNBC jobs to the media giant's famed 30 Rock headquarters from Secaucus and increase the company's city payroll by 2009. In exchange, NBC will receive \$1.5 million in property tax abatements and a sales tax exemption worth millions more.

NBC employee Peter Ehrhardt, a member of the Theatrical Stage Employees' negotiating committee, said: "The company proposals . . . are entirely focused on replacing union employees, existing employees, with nonunion, potentially part-time employees from New Jersey."

Several union members said they were not aware of the agreement between NBC and the city until the Daily News reported Monday that it would be up for a vote yesterday.

Before the board approved the deal, staffers of the Industrial Development Agency assured the panel that the city would benefit in a big way.

NBC's corporate spokeswoman did not return a call seeking comment.

Paul D. Colford