

30 NMB No. 23
January 14, 2003

TO: All Carriers and Labor Organizations

FROM: Benetta M. Mansfield
Chief of Staff

RE: Telephone Electronic Voting Comment Period

On September 30, 2002, the National Mediation Board (Board) announced the beginning of representation elections using Telephone Electronic Voting (TEV). *Telephone Electronic Voting*, 29 NMB 482 (2002). The announcement also provided that the Board would accept any comments regarding TEV during a 120-day period commencing September 30, 2002. The 120-day period ends on January 28, 2003. However, the Board will continue to accept comments through Friday, 4:00 p.m. ET, February 7, 2003.

The Board's TEV system utilizes the same highly secure technology which many carriers use for shareholder voting and which many organizations use for membership voting and polling. While the Board's experience to date has shown TEV to be a efficient and secure representation election process, numerous suggestions for process improvement have been identified. Many suggestions concerning the Board's internal processes have been implemented.

The Board welcomes comments by carriers and organizations on the following proposals to enhance the TEV processes:

1. The Board should provide a sample on the agency's website of the mandatory Excel® spreadsheet format which can be downloaded by the carriers. This mandatory format would be used exclusively to develop the carrier's list of potential eligible voters.

2. The Board should provide a web based sample of the standard telephone voting prompts to allow carriers and organizations to listen to the voting prompts and achieve a greater understanding of TEV.

3. The Board should require that carriers include the sequence number from the carrier's list of potential eligible voters beside each voter's name on the address labels to ensure matching of voting Instructions and address labels, especially when the list of eligible voters has duplicate names.

Please submit comments to the Office of Legal Affairs in writing by mail to:

National Mediation Board
1301 K Street, NW, Suite 250E
Washington, DC 20005

or by facsimile to 202-692-5085; or by email to legal@nmb.gov.