



MEMORANDUM

TO: Railroad Neutrals
Rail Carriers & Rail Labor Organizations

FROM: Roland Watkins *Roland Watkins*
Director, Arbitration Services

DATE: February 27, 2013

RE: Deadline for Rendering a Decision

At the present time, all awards must be rendered within six (6) months of the date of hearing. If the arbitrator has cases heard and not decided within six months, he/she cannot hear additional cases until those cases have been decided.

For the last two years, the National Mediation Board's (NMB) auditors have expressed a concern about the six month requirement. Due to the nature of annual appropriations, the auditors concluded that the overlap of six months into the next fiscal year posed significant accounting problems, and the six-month overlap has caused some funds available for Section 3 cases to go unused.

In an effort to determine a reasonable time frame in which cases can be heard, during the past fiscal year the NMB reviewed all Section 3 cases to determine the length of time between the hearing of a case and the rendering of the award. The review established that over 75% of the cases were decided within three (3) months of the date of hearing.

For the above reasons, you are notified that commencing April 1, 2013, all decisions will be due within three (3) months of the date of hearing. This means that all cases heard on and after April 1, 2013, must be rendered within three (3) months of the date of hearing.

Questions about this change should be directed to either Carol Conrad or Darrell Dancer at 202-692-5055.

This memorandum does not apply to party pay boards or cases.