



# MEMORANDUM

**TO: Railroad Neutrals**

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

**DATE: June 8, 2011**

**RE: Change in NMB Certification Procedures**

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In order to comply with the National Mediation Board's auditors and a decision of the Government Accounting Office (GAO), the NMB will change its certification process for arbitrators. The GAO and the NMB's auditors have stated that when the NMB certifies an arbitrator to a board or certifies an arbitrator to hear a case at the National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB) the NMB must have the monies to cover the costs of all the cases on that board/and or the cost of each NRAB case. Due to the difficulty of complying with this decision, the NMB has decided to change its certification process. This change is for administrative purposes only and does not affect your relationship with the arbitral panels or the NMB.

Commencing July 1, 2011, the NMB will not issue any certifications to arbitrators to boards since GAO and the auditors have stated that the certification triggers the obligation process. If you have been certified as the arbitrator on a board and/or certified to hear and decide any cases at the NRAB, you will receive a letter from me notifying you that the certification has been terminated effective July 1, 2011.

On July 1, 2011, you will receive a work order from me allowing you to hear and decide cases on any board established under the Railway Labor Act and any cases at the NRAB. This order is effective for the period July 1, 2011, to September 30, 2011. This will allow you to work on all current boards and all current cases at the NRAB. It will also cover any boards established during this period.

For any new boards established during this period, the parties will be asked to inform the NMB of your selection for our records. We will not issue certificates.

On October 1, 2011, the NMB will issue work orders for the fiscal year October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.

Any questions must be directed to Carol Conrad or Darrell Dancer at 202-692-5055.