



MEMORANDUM

TO: Railroad Neutrals
Rail Carriers
Rail Labor Organizations

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

DATE: November 21, 2011

RE: Status of Funding and Section 3 Activities for Fiscal Year 2012
- Second Continuing Resolution

At the present time, Congress has not passed an appropriation for the National Mediation Board (NMB) for Fiscal Year 2012. The NMB is presently operating under a second continuing resolution which expires on December 16, 2011.

The NMB was able to authorize days and travel for the month of November.

All arbitrators and parties are notified that the NMB will make every effort to authorize days for the month of December that may be utilized for decisions in accordance with the NMB's policy for the past five fiscal years. However, these authorizations will be made with minimal advanced notice.

However, depending on the availability of funds travel might be authorized for the month of December. Since this continuing resolution expires on December 16, 2011, the parties are notified that arbitrators do not have any authority to schedule cases past this date if the cases involve the expenditure of funds by the NMB. The Anti-Deficiency Act precludes arbitrators from hearing cases for free.

The Agency will continue to update you on its appropriation status. Questions must be directed to Darrell Dancer at (202) 692-5055.

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