



MEMORANDUM

TO: Railroad Neutrals

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

DATE: August 1, 2005

RE: August 2005 Authorization for Days and Notice about September Travel

You may have noticed from your NMB Form 6 "Official Travel/Referee Compensation" for the month of August that you did not receive all the days that you requested. Since this is near the end of the fiscal year, there is a small amount of money available in the budget for Section 3 activities. However, we have attempted to give each arbitrator an adequate number of days. We had a large number arbitrators requesting days this fiscal year.

If you receive any days that you are unable to use during the month of August, please contact Carol Conrad immediately to return those days so that the days can be reused for August.

Due to the lack of travel funds, no travel for the month of September will be authorized. The rising costs of airline fares and per diem rates resulted in high travel expenses. I regret any inconvenience.

However, the NMB suggest video conferencing if you have a September hearing that you would like to conduct. If you would like to use video conferencing or have any questions, please contact Carol Conrad at 202-692-5055.