

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

26 CFR Part 1

[REG-142605-02]

RIN-1545-BB47

Administration Simplification of Section 481(a) Adjustment Periods in Various Regulations; Hearing Cancellation

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Cancellation of notice of public hearing on proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document cancels a public hearing on proposed regulations under section sections 263A and 448 of the Internal Revenue Code. The amendments apply to taxpayers changing a method of accounting under the regulations and are necessary to conform the rules governing those changes to the rules provided in general guidance issued by the IRS for changing a method of accounting.

DATES: The public hearing originally scheduled for August 13, 2003, at 10 a.m., is cancelled.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sonya M. Cruse of the Regulations Unit, Associate Chief Counsel (Procedure and Administration), at (202) 622-4693 (not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of public hearing that appeared in the *Federal Register* on Monday, May 12, 2003, (68 FR 25310), announced that a public hearing was scheduled for August 13, 2003, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium, Internal Revenue Service Building, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

The subject of the public hearing is proposed regulations under sections 263A and 448 of the Internal Revenue Code. The public comment period for these regulations expired on July 11, 2003. The outlines of oral comments

were due on July 23, 2003. The notice of proposed rulemaking and notice of public hearing, instructed those interested in testifying at the public hearing to submit a request to speak and an outline of the topics to be addressed. As of Monday, August 4, 2003, no one has requested to speak. Therefore, the public hearing scheduled for August 13, 2003, is cancelled.

Cynthia E. Grigsby,

Chief, Regulations Unit, Associate Chief Counsel (Procedure and Administration).

[FR Doc. 03-20184 Filed 8-6-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

29 CFR Chapter X

Administration of National Railroad Adjustment Board Functions and Activities

AGENCY: National Mediation Board.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Railway Labor Act (RLA) establishes the National Mediation Board (NMB) whose functions, among others, are to administer certain provisions of the RLA with respect to the arbitration of labor disputes in the rail industry, including the administration of the National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB) established under the RLA. The RLA provides the NMB with authority for administration, including making expenditures for necessary expenses, of the NRAB.

The NMB is considering changes to its rules and procedures to facilitate the more timely resolution of grievances ("minor disputes") among grievants and carriers in the railroad industry. Because of its role in the administration of the NRAB's program, the NMB is interested in receiving public input on the factors that should be considered in accomplishing this goal. In particular, because of the NMB's statutory responsibility for the appointment and compensation of neutral arbitrators ("referees") to resolve deadlocks within NRAB divisions, and the NMB's overall statutory responsibility for the administrative processing of grievances to facilitate the timely resolution of these disputes in the railroad industry, the NMB is considering what initiatives

it may undertake to further the resolution of deadlocks on a more timely and expeditious basis. In addition, the NMB is interested in receiving public input on achieving case resolution in the most cost effective way possible.

DATES: Comments must be in writing and must be received by September 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be addressed to Roland Watkins, Director of Arbitration/NRAB Administrator, National Mediation Board, 1301 K Street, NW., Suite 250—East, Washington, DC 20572. Attn: NMB Docket No. 2003-01. You may submit your comments via letter, or electronically through the Internet to the following address: arb@nmb.gov. If you submit your comments electronically, please put the full body of your comments in the text of the electronic message and also as an attachment readable in MS Word. Please include your name, title, organization, postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address in the text of the message. Comments may also be submitted via facsimile to (202) 692-5086. Please cite NMB Docket No. 2003-01 in your comment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roland Watkins, NRAB Administrator, 1301 K Street, NW., Suite 250 East, Washington, DC 20572 (telephone: 202-692-5000).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background and Summary

The Railway Labor Act (RLA), 45 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.* establishes the National Mediation Board (NMB) whose functions, among others, are to administer certain provisions of the RLA with respect to the arbitration of labor disputes in the rail industry, including the administration of the National Railroad Adjustment Board (NRAB) established under 45 U.S.C. 153. 45 U.S.C. 154, Third, provides the NMB with authority for administration, including making expenditures for necessary expenses, of the NRAB.

Pursuant to its authority under 45 U.S.C. 154, Third, the NMB is considering changes to its rules and procedures to better facilitate the timely resolution of minor disputes between grievants and carriers in the railroad industry. Because of its fundamental role in the administration of the NRAB,