



MERGER WATCH

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NMB Rejects Delta's Rush to Judgment

The National Mediation Board (NMB) has granted the Air Line Pilots Association's (ALPA) request to declare that a single carrier exists for pilot union representational purposes at Delta Air Lines. Since ALPA represented both Northwest and Delta pilots, no representation election is necessary and ALPA's certification as collective bargaining representative is extended to cover the merged airline.

Delta Air Lines argued that when the NMB determined a single carrier existed for the pilots, the same should apply for all employee classifications because it hoped the Board would then force elections to take place outside of the normal course. The NMB soundly rejected Delta's arguments, and agreed with the Machinists Union that each classification must have a separate single carrier determination.

The NMB stated:

"Delta contends that once the Board determines that a single transportation system exists, Section 2, Fourth, of the RLA requires the Board to review the status of all existing Board certifications to organizations representing employees at the pre-merger Northwest, not just those organizations that have filed applications with the Board. The RLEA court clearly stated that "the Board may investigate a representation dispute only upon request of the employees involved in the dispute." 29 F.3d 655, at 664, (D.C. Cir. 1994). (Emphasis in original.) Thus, at the current time, the Board can examine only those certifications related to the unions who have filed applications..."

The NMB's complete decision is available at www.goiam.org/mergers.

"The lives of thousands of employees and their families will be affected by the outcome of representation elections," said IAM General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. "The Board properly rejected Delta's efforts to jump the gun and force premature elections so it could stymie the democratic process and inhibit employee free choice."

"The representation elections will determine if employees will be protected by secure pensions, have truly fair seniority integration, and earn guaranteed wages and benefits that they will help negotiate," said IAM District 143 President Stephen Gordon. "The IAM is committed to ensuring the rights of Delta and Northwest workers are protected and that the elections are held at the proper time in accordance with the law."

When the IAM files its application for a single carrier ruling for each classification where we currently represent members at Northwest Airlines we will also demonstrate sufficient interest for the NMB to hold representation elections. Just as with a single carrier ruling, each classification will have separate elections.