

ANDREA L. BOWMAN
General Attorney, Law Department

Tel (404) 715 3586
Fax (404) 715 2233

November 30, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Maria Kate Dowling, Investigator
Angela Heverling, Investigator
National Mediation Board
Suite 250 East
1301 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20572

RE: NMB File No. R-7254
Delta Air Lines, Inc./AFA

Dear Ms. Dowling and Ms. Heverling:

Delta respectfully requests an extension of time to respond to the AFA's challenges to the recent flight attendant election which were filed late in the afternoon on November 23, 2010. For the reasons detailed below, Delta requests that the response deadline be set at December 21, 2010.

1. Delta did not receive the AFA's over 150 declarations and other documents supporting the AFA's challenges until mid-afternoon on November 24. By that time, Delta's Law Department, which will have principal responsibility for investigating and responding to the AFA's claims, had closed for the Thanksgiving holiday. Delta's General Offices, including the Law Department, were also closed on the Friday following Thanksgiving. Because of the delay in the Law Department's receipt of AFA's supporting materials and the Thanksgiving holiday, we were not in a position to even begin the process of reviewing, investigating and responding to the AFA's supporting materials and arguments until Monday, November 29.

2. The AFA filed over 150 declarations with multiple allegations and voluminous exhibits, in addition to a brief of more than 80 pages. It seems likely, based on the supporting materials, that the AFA started working on them well before the results of the election on November 3. The review, investigation and response to these materials will require a very significant amount of time, effort and resources. We do not believe it would be feasible to complete that effort in less than the time requested.

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3. Any challenges by the IAM to the recently completed elections in the Fleet Service and Stock and Stores groups are due by December 9. Delta's Law Department also will need to be prepared to begin efforts to review, investigate and respond to any such challenges.

4. Given the upcoming end of year holidays, as a practical matter this extension is unlikely to cause any delay in the outcome of the Board's investigation and determinations regarding the AFA's claims. For example, the time from the filing of challenges to the Board's determination in the election in the 91-person Delta Simulator Technician group earlier this year was greater than five months. Thus, it seems clear that this additional time during the end of year holiday period is unlikely to cause any overall delay in the outcome of this matter.

For all these reasons, Delta respectfully requests that the time for Delta's response to the AFA's challenges be set at December 21, 2010.

Sincerely,



Andrea L. Bowman

Cc: Michael H. Campbell
Jack Gallagher, Esq.
Edward J. Gilmartin, Esq.
Veda Shook
Deirdre Hamilton, Esq.