



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
844 NORTH RUSH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-2092

RECEIVED

FEB 25 2009

TRANSP. DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MEMBER

V. M. SPEAKMAN, JR.
LABOR MEMBER

February 20, 2009
Release No: 04-2009
Subject: New Economic Legislation
Affects Unemployment Benefits for
Railroad Workers

**TO CHIEF EXECUTIVES, RAILWAY
LABOR ORGANIZATION:**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, recently signed into law by President Obama, contains a number of provisions that affect railroad retirement annuitants and railroad workers. Among these, the Act provides up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits for certain railroad workers who exhaust their rights to the benefits normally provided under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA).

The economic legislation provides an appropriation of \$20 million to be used for payment of additional extended unemployment benefits. The new law provides the temporary extended benefits to employees receiving normal unemployment benefits for days between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

Under the RUIA, normal unemployment benefits are generally payable for up to 130 days (26 weeks) in a benefit year. Such normal benefits are payable both to employees with 10 years of service as well as employees with less than 10 years of service.

If normal benefits are exhausted, extended benefits are payable for up to 65 days (during 7 consecutive registration periods), but only to employees with 10 or more years of service. Such extended benefits are not payable under the RUIA to employees with less than 10 years of service.

Under the new legislation, railroad workers who previously were not eligible for extended unemployment benefits because they did not have 10 years of service may be eligible for benefits of up to 65 days within an extended period consisting of 7 consecutive 2-week registration periods.

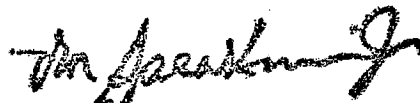


Railroad workers who previously were eligible for extended unemployment benefits of up to 65 days may now be eligible for benefits of up to 130 days within an extended period consisting of 13 consecutive 2-week registration periods.

The latest date that an extended benefit period under these special provisions may begin is December 31, 2009, with payments stopping when the \$20 million has been expended.

The RRB will notify eligible individuals of their new rights to extended benefits and provide additional information about those benefits as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



V. M. Speakman, Jr.
Labor Member

cc: National Reporting Officers
National Legislative Representatives