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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD (MSPB) ALLOWS LENIENCY IN MEETING FILING DEADLINES**

Due to a disruption to MSPB's document management system, Chairman Susan Tsui Grundmann has announced a policy for granting extensions to filing deadlines for electronically filed documents. This policy applies to Petitions for Appeal, Petitions for Review, case-related documents, pleadings, and other submissions requiring access to the document Repository in e-Appeal Online (<https://e-appeal.mspb.gov>).

During the period of disruption, which began Tuesday, August 14, 2012, and ended Friday, August 17, 2012:

1. Parties were able to file new appeals and pleadings but were not able to access the e-Appeal Repository.
2. New appeals and pleadings submitted during this time were sent to the relevant MSPB offices.
3. Email notification was sent to parties for submitted appeals and pleadings; however, parties were unable to view them in the document Repository in e-Appeal Online. Documents were listed in the Repository, but they could not be viewed.
4. The MSPB was not able to electronically distribute any documents to parties. To minimize this disruption, MSPB served registered e-filers through fax and U.S. mail in some cases.
5. On the afternoon of Thursday, August 16, 2012, the e-Appeal Online system was unavailable to all users.

On Friday, August 17, 2012, access to e-Appeal Online was restored. Users are now able to submit pleadings and view most documents in the Repository. The MSPB's Technical Support team is working to restore availability to all documents in the Repository.

Any parties who were adversely affected by this period of disruption must observe the following procedures: To be considered for leniency, late-filed submissions must include a statement that the delay was due to lack of access to the e-Appeal Online document Repository or e-Appeal Online. In any case where the delay is longer than the period of the disruption, the filer must explain the reason for the extended filing period.

The Clerk of the Board, and Regional and Field Office judges, will exercise discretion in accepting filings delayed due to this disruption. Generally, when MSPB receives a late filing that does not include an explanation for the delay, it issues a show cause order. The Chairman's announcement allows MSPB to accept and acknowledge filings without issuing show cause orders in appropriate cases.

If you have questions concerning this policy, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board or the appropriate MSPB Regional or Field Office. Telephone and email addresses are located on the [Contact](#) tab of MSPB's website ([www.mspb.gov](http://www.mspb.gov)).

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices. The MSPB adjudicates appeals, conducts studies of the merit systems, and reviews the rules, regulations, and significant actions of the Office of Personnel Management.