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## **STATUS OF THE U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD DURING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

Due to the shutdown of the Federal Government effective at midnight, Friday, January 19, 2018, the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB or Board) has ceased all operations. This means that the processing of all appeals and other pleadings is suspended, regardless of whether such matters are pending in a Regional or Field Office, before the full Board in Washington, DC, or before an administrative law judge. No staff are available in any MSPB office to answer inquiries during the entirety of a shutdown. MSPB's e-Appeal Online system also is not available.

MSPB understands that this situation requires adjusting certain deadlines and other processing requirements in many appeals. Therefore, all filing and processing deadlines will be extended by the number of days the Federal Government is shut down. This extension applies to all deadlines before the MSPB, including those at the initial appeal and petition for review levels. The extension is automatic, so parties will not be required to request an extension nor will they be required to show good cause for an extension. This automatic extension does not apply, however, to any deadlines that passed *before* the date of the shutdown.

Further, any hearings, status conferences, or other matters scheduled with an administrative judge for a day when the Federal Government is shut down are postponed. Once the Federal Government reopens, the administrative judge will reschedule the event postponed by the shutdown. As indicated above, administrative judges are not available to answer questions or to address inquiries from the parties while the Federal Government is shutdown.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board or the appropriate MSPB Regional or Field Office after the

shutdown. Telephone and e-mail 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 that protects Federal merit systems and the rights of individuals within those systems. The MSPB also conducts studies of the civil service and other merit systems in the Executive Branch.