



**Brotherhood of Locomotive
Engineers and Trainmen**
GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE – MONTANA RAIL LINK

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ALL LOCAL CHAIRMEN
BNSF NORTHLINES

August 22, 2005
File: Cab Standards

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

On May 23 and 24, 2005 this Office, along with Vice President Speagle, met with BNSF Labor Relations Officers to resolve a number of long standing claims issues.

One of those issues was the claim of Brother R.E. Blumanthal, File 041110.01, wherein he made claim for 2 hours pay account being required to work his trip with a lead locomotive water cooler that was inoperative. Attached for your files is a settlement wherein the Carrier has agreed that these claims are valid if it can be shown that a lead locomotive mechanical or electrical water cooler was inoperative, that the Claimant reported this defect to the Carrier prior to departure from his terminal, and that subsequent to reporting the defect the Claimant was instructed to depart his terminal with the inoperative water cooler.

Claims in which these defects were reported prior to terminal departure were allowed, claims in which the defects were reported subsequent to terminal departure were withdrawn. To be successful on a claim of this nature we must illustrate that the defect was reported, and that the Claimant was instructed to depart in that condition, before the actual terminal departure was made. All other requirements for reporting of these defects remain unchanged.

Please add this to your files.

Fraternaly,

Dennis R. Pierce
General Chairman
SJB

Attachment

cc: Don Hahs, BLET President
S. Speagle, BLET Vice Pres.
J. Nelson, Secy/Treas GCA
Vice Chairmen
R. Luther, Gen. Dir. BNSF LR
All BLET Gen. Chmn's, BNSF



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M. H. Siegele
VP/BNSF
2600 Lou Menk Drive
P. O. Box 961030
Fort Worth, TX 76161-0030

August 8, 2005
File: Water Cooler

Dear Mr. Siegele:

This is in reference to our conference held on May 23 and 24, 2005 wherein we discussed the claim of Engineer R.E. Blumanthal, BLET file 041110.01, your file 71-04-1051.

This file detailed a claim wherein Engineer Blumanthal was required to operate a locomotive with an inoperative water cooler. In our Claims Summit of May 23 and 24 the issue of water cooler claims was discussed. It was agreed that new instructions are going to be issued to the field on this matter. Claims in which a mechanical or electrical water cooler is inoperative and where the crew of the train reports the defect prior to departure will be allowed on the basis of a 2 hour payment at the working rate. Claims in which the defect is not reported until after departure will be denied and subsequently withdrawn by the Organization.

Please indicate if you concur.

Sincerely yours,

D.R. Pierce
General Chairman
SJB

M.H. Siegele