

Cut off Questions

We have received the following questions and I hope this will provide some answers

Q. How can I get paid familiarization?

A. The only way to get paid is if you stay on the Coastlines, or if you exhaust your seniority on the Coastlines. You can go to another former Santa Fe property and get paid familiarization, and only if you have exhausted your seniority everywhere on the Coastlines. Former BN territories are hit and miss on whether or not they pay for familiarization.

Q. How long does my insurance last?

A. Your insurance lasts for 4 months following your last qualifying month of service.

Q. Can I bid from the OIFR board.

A. No, once you are placed on the OIFR you do not have any bidding rights.

Q. Can I increase off of the OIFR board?

A. Yes, you can put a letter of increase to another seniority district, but on your home seniority district you will be recalled in seniority order.

Q. Can I bid in and LETP class while on the OIFR board?

A. No, you do not have any bidding rights.

Q. If I am placed on the OIFR board and sit there for a month, can I now increase off of the OIFR board?

A. Yes,

01. How long does medical insurance stay intact when furloughed? **If you are furloughed in December, your employee and dependent health-care coverage will continue through April 2009 -- for four months following the furlough. Generally, the plan provides continued coverage through the fourth month following the month in which you last provided compensated service, or received vacation pay (provided the vacation pay was received prior to the date of your furlough). Thus, if you are furloughed in January, coverage would continue through May, unless you are called off the OIFR board and work a day then your insurance will be extended from that month.**

02. What is the minimum work requirement to keep insurance benefits? **You must work seven days in a month to be qualified unless you are covered in the above paragraph**

03. What other options are there regarding insurance benefits if furloughed for a long period of time? **You may apply for Cobra Insurance**

04. I know you said that being released from recall is not an option, but couldn't the member send a written request to Mark Kirschinger and see if Mark would capitulate? **Nothing stops you from writing General Manager but if he releases one he must release all.**

05. What concerns if any are there with keeping seniority if a member is furloughed? **They must report back in the allotted time. They continue to accumulate seniority while they are off but it affect vacation time.**

06. Is UTU dues suspended during the time a member is furloughed? **Yes you are put on E-49 status**

07. What concerns if any are there if a member chooses to work elsewhere but wants to come back to BNSF when work improves? **If you take a stay at home leave you must report back for duty in 48 hours, if not you forfeit your seniority. If you go Off In Force Reduction you have fifteen days to report or forfeit your seniority. In either case you must keep the Carrier apprised of your address and phone number.**

08. What are the requirements of the member during that time? **Keep the Carrier and Union apprised of their location and how they may be contacted.**

09. What is the notification process our members should expect when being notified that they are being furloughed? **They may request a stay at home leave and not follow their seniority on their home district or they go OIFR after five days when there is no one their junior working on their seniority district to displace.**

10. What about when the company notifies them for recall from furlough? **When OFIR by mail or phone and on Stay at Home Leave by phone.**

11. Does the UTU International offer extended assistance for furloughed employees? **NO**

12. If I can hold a position anywhere on the Coastlines will I be paid for familiarization? **NO** If I cannot hold a position anywhere on the Coastlines will I be paid for familiarization? **YES** The exception is the Pacific Northwest where we do not have seniority.

just as above you can increase off of your home seniority district.