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**NLRB LAUNCHES NEW INTERACTIVE WEB SITE,
EXPANDS ONLINE FILING, POSTS MORE CONTENT**

The National Labor Relations Board today launched a new interactive web site that will enable users to transact business online with the agency more easily.

The new site – www.nlr.gov – is a key component of the NLRB’s effort to enhance its E-Government services through better access and ease of use, agency officials said. They cited several important enhancements as integral to the development and launch of the new web site. Among them are:

- A new feature – My NLRB -- using portal technology that will allow users to establish their own “accounts.” Registered users with “My NLRB” will be given a User ID and password to sign in so the site will remember them. Establishing an account will benefit users who E-file documents because the system automatically fills in data fields on E-filing forms. My NLRB also will let registered users save details from previous visits, such as searches.
- The site provides for expanded E-filing options. Specifically, the General Counsel expanded the program for filing documents electronically with Regional, Subregional and Resident Offices and the GC’s Office of Appeals, using the site’s E-filing system. In addition, the Division of Judges will now accept documents electronically, using the site’s E-filing system.
- The entire site was redesigned with a uniform format and user-friendly interface. An improved navigational structure makes it easier for users to find information. The search engine will provide easier access to case documents and data.
- A searchable database was added to the site that contains detailed public information, including docketing events, related documents, and dates in cases pending before the Board and in cases at the Regional Offices.

- More document collections have been posted, including briefs filed with the U.S. Courts of Appeals.

In a statement, Chairman Robert J. Battista and General Counsel Ronald Meisburg said:

The new NLRB web site and expanded E-filing program are consistent with the President's E-Government policy to make government services more efficient, transparent, citizen-centered, and results-oriented. The site reflects our pursuit of two important E-Gov initiatives. First, to increase the ability of the public to transact business online with the agency. Second, to use technology to improve our internal case management systems. These efforts are reducing the agency's reliance on traditional paper-based processes, introducing operational efficiencies, and enabling the agency to better serve the public and accomplish our mission. Our new site is one of the best in government.

This is the fourth release of the web site, since the agency first began publishing decisions online at a Department of Commerce bulletin board in 1994. User traffic on the NLRB site has risen dramatically over the years. In 1997, the site had 100,000 hits per month; in 2003, at the time of the last major site upgrade, traffic was 1.5 million per month. Today, the site averages 3.8 million hits per month.

The biggest change in the newly designed site is adding "portal" functionality, enabling it to become interactive with online transactions, rather than a static repository of documents, according to NLRB officials. The objective of the new site is to enhance citizen access to NLRB services through E-Gov systems that provide online services and information in a secure environment, they emphasized. At the same time, the agency said it will continue to make its services and processes available through traditional means.

The significant new portal feature, named "My NLRB," provides users with a web interface to various databases with case information and links to documents associated with selected cases. The full functionality of My NLRB is available only to registered users. They are recognized by the system when they enter their user ID and password. The E-filing process is easier for registered users because certain information required on the online filing forms is filled in automatically. The system can save searches and other user preferences for registered users who might, for example, want to follow the progress of certain cases. My NLRB is divided into four functional areas: Regional Office Cases, Board Cases, My Profile, and E-filing

In the "Regional Office Cases" area, users have access for the first time to detailed cases information maintained by the General Counsel. The database, called Electronic Case Information System (ECIS), contains summaries of case status information pertaining to cases processed after October 1, 1999. (The search tool does not at this time provide a link to a decision made by the Board or the Office of the General Counsel pertaining to a case.)

A new online searchable database of case information on all cases pending before the five-Member Board is located in the "Board Cases" area. By keying in a case name into the search box, a user will get search results of all cases with that name and the associated case numbers. From that list, the user can click the link to the case status page for a selected case which contains a list of events with dates on the docket maintained by the Office of the Executive Secretary. The page also will identify any documents that can be accessed online associated with the case. As the system matures, more and more documents will be available using the Docket and Order System (DOS).

The agency steadily has been expanding its electronic filing program for the public since July 2002. The General Counsel decided that year to permit charging parties to E-file extension-of-time requests in cases before the Office of Appeals in Washington, D.C. That office handles appeals by charging parties whose unfair labor practice (ULP) charges are dismissed, deferred or unilaterally settled by Regional Offices. In June 2003, the five-Member Board permitted parties to E-file certain documents in ULP and representation (R) cases; in March 2004, the Board expanded its pilot E-filing program to include all documents in R cases and in January 2005, allowed for the E-filing of all documents in ULP and R cases.

With today's announcement, the General Counsel is allowing parties to E-file most casehandling documents with Regional, Subregional, and Resident Offices, including Briefs (ULP and R cases), Answers to Complaints or Compliance Specifications, Motions for Summary Judgment, Petitions to Revoke Subpoenas, Motions for Bill of Particulars and Election Objections. Not permitted at this time in the GC's E-filing program: ULP charges and R case petitions. Any documents over 15 pages in length, including attachments, may be transmitted online to a Regional Office using the agency's web site, but a paper copy also must be sent to the Regional Office so that it is received no later than three business days after the date of filing. In all other E-filings, parties no longer are required to send a paper copy of the documents. With the expanded E-filing through the web site, the General Counsel has discontinued the E-mail boxes previously established for each Regional, Subregional or Resident Offices. However, the General Counsel continues to encourage parties to a case to communicate with Board agents through internet E-mail to arrange appointments, schedule witnesses and exchange other case-relevant information.

For the first time, the General Counsel's Office of Appeals will accept the E-filing of appeals from Regional Director's refusal to issue complaint and a Regional Director's compliance determination. This includes the actual appeal, supporting statements, supplemental statements, and responses to the appeal. Any such documents E-filed that are over 15 pages, as with Regional Offices, also must be accompanied by a hard copy sent to the Office of Appeals by regular mail and received within three business days of the E-filing date.

The Division of Judges' E-filing pilot program permits parties to file selected documents in ULP cases, including Motions (all types), Opposition to Motions, Petition to Revoke a Subpoena, Opposition to Petition to Revoke a Subpoena, Briefs, and Requests for Extension of Time to file a brief. The 15-page limit and three-day rule also applies.