

Freddie N. Simpson
Acting President



Perry K. Geller, Sr.
Acting Secretary-Treasurer

BMW **Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes**
Affiliated with the AFL-CIO and C.L.C.

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November 6, 2003

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ALL GENERAL CHAIRMEN
IN THE UNITED STATES

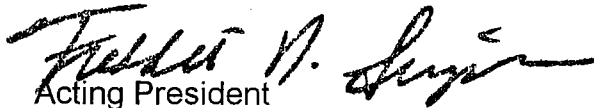
Re: January 1, 2004 Cost of Living Allowance
under 1996 National Agreements

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

Recently the National Railway Labor Conference Economic Research Department issued their Circular to the member roads outlining the January 1, 2004 Cost of Living Allowance (COLA). In that Circular they advised the member railroads that Article II, Part C of the Agreement provides for a COLA to be payable on January 1, 2004. The COLA will be 03 cents, calculated on the basis of the change in the CPI-W for the measurement period March 2003 to September 2003. The 03 cents will be added to the existing 75 cent COLA for a total of 78 cents effective January 1, 2004.

Please note that Article II, Part A of the new National Agreement with the BMWWE provides that Article II, Part C of the 1996 National Agreement (under which the COLA specified above would be paid) was eliminated July 1, 2001.

In solidarity,


Acting President

cc: Mr. P. K. Geller, Sr.
All Vice Presidents
Mr. D. F. Griffin

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