



Mr. Gus Baffa
President
National Rural Letter Carriers'
Association
1630 Duke Street, 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 23314-3465

Re: D95R-4D-C 01037982
Class Action
Louisville, KY 40231-9998

Dear Mr. Baffa:

The parties recently met in pre-arbitration discussion regarding the above referenced case.

The issue in this grievance is whether management's denial of additional credit during the mail count for time involved in retrieving DPS mail and returning articles to the accountable cage violates the National Agreement.

During our discussion, we mutually agreed that the following will constitute full and complete settlement of this grievance:

Rural carriers may be required to retrieve DPS mail without additional time credit, whether or not the rural carrier receives withdrawal credit, provided the DPS mail is in close proximity to the rural carrier's case. Rural carriers may also be required to return articles to the accountable cage (or location where accountables are cleared) upon completion of street duties without additional time credit provided the cage is in close proximity to the rural carrier's case. The parties define close proximity as 50 feet (round trip).

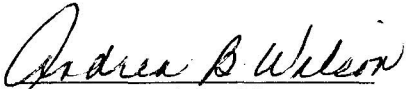
During the mail count, if the DPS mail is not within 50 feet (round trip), the route will be provided additional credit under Column R for only the distance beyond the 50 feet. Measurement will be from the closest edge (wing) on the front side of the carrier's case to the closest edge of the container of DPS. The distance beyond 50 feet will be credited at .00284 minutes per foot.

During the mail count, if the accountable cage (or location where accountables are cleared) is not within 50 feet (round trip) the route will be provided additional credit under Column R for only the distance beyond the 50 feet. Measurement will be from the closest edge (wing) on the front side of the carrier's case to the window of the accountable cage. The distance beyond 50 feet will be credited at .00284 minutes per foot. The credit will not exceed more than one round trip per day to return mail/receipts in the afternoon.

The parties agree that this settlement will be applied to all mail counts subsequent to the 2003 national rural mail count and will be considered the settlement in any other grievance concerning this issue.

Please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter as your acknowledgment of agreement to settle the above captioned case and remove it from the pending national arbitration listing.

Sincerely,



Andrea B. Wilson, Manager
Contract Administration
(NRLCA/NPMHU)

Date: 3/19/03



Gus Baffa, President
National Rural Letter Carriers'
Association

Date: 3-19-03