



Date: March 23, 2009

To: U.S Based Delta Employees and Retirees

From: Rob Kight, Vice President – Compensation, Benefits and Services

On December 23, 2008 the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (the “Act”) was signed into law. Section 125 of the Act allows certain active and former airline employees to contribute certain bankruptcy related payments to a Roth IRA. A Roth IRA is an individual retirement account that allows you to make contributions on an after-tax basis. This is different from a traditional IRA which only allows for before-tax contributions. The earnings on a Roth IRA are generally tax free when you take a distribution.

You are not required to do anything as a result of this legislation. However, for many of you, the Act may present a favorable tax opportunity, and you may wish to consult your financial or tax advisor to discuss the features of a Roth IRA.

In order to take advantage of this provision, airline employees and retirees must both have been a participant of a defined benefit retirement plan that was terminated or frozen and received a payment resulting from a bankruptcy claim, note or other fixed obligation approved by the bankruptcy court (an “Eligible Payment”). You are receiving this letter because you have received an Eligible Payment under the Act and are (or were) a participant in one of the Delta or Northwest defined benefit plans. These plans include the Delta Retirement Plan, Delta Pilots Retirement Plan, Western Air Lines, Inc. Pilots Defined Benefit Plan, Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for Pilot Employees, Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for Contract Employees, and Northwest Airlines Pension Plan for Salaried Employees.

The Act provides current and former employees of Delta, Northwest and other carriers who received an Eligible Payment the ability to contribute all or any portion of that amount to a Roth IRA account. Examples of Eligible Payments include, but are not limited to a bankruptcy claim, proceeds of a note provided during bankruptcy, and lump sum emergence payments. The Act provides that any such contribution will be treated as if it were a rollover contribution from a qualified plan, except that any otherwise applicable income or contribution amount restrictions will not apply. The amount that may be contributed to a Roth IRA under the Act is limited to the taxable portion of an Eligible Payment.

Under the Act, Delta’s responsibility is to report to you and the IRS on or about March 23, 2009 the amount we have determined as your Eligible Payment for all bankruptcy related amounts paid to you prior to December 23, 2008 (the day the Act was signed into law). In addition, for any Eligible Payment made after that date, we will report to you and the IRS the amount of such payment within 90 days of the payment. Payments made after December 23 will include the final distribution on bankruptcy claims in either the Delta or Northwest bankruptcy case. Neither Delta nor Northwest has completed the process of settling all outstanding claims and so both companies will be making a final distribution to eligible claimholders in the future. This process will apply primarily to retirees of Delta. Please see the reverse for additional information.

Delta’s reports to you and the IRS will be made on Form 8935; for payments made to you prior to December 23, 2008, the form is enclosed with this letter. The Act also provides that you must make any contributions to the Roth IRA 180 days from the date of the enactment (December 23, 2008) for the initial report or 180 days from receipt of payment for any future reports.

For general information on Roth IRAs and the Act, please see IRS Publication 590. Many financial institutions, including the Delta Community Credit Union and Fidelity Investments, offer Roth IRAs. Of course, the choice to open a Roth IRA and the financial institution for such an account is up to you and Delta cannot advise you on that decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rob Kight", written in a cursive style.

Rob Kight
Vice President – Compensation, Benefits and Services

Note about Final Distribution of Claims:

If you are due a final distribution of your bankruptcy claim, substantial progress has been made in resolving disputed claims since Delta's and Northwest's emergence from Chapter 11. However there are still many claims filed against both companies that have not yet been resolved. Before a final distribution can occur for either case, all outstanding claims in that case must be resolved in order to calculate the number of shares each claimant is to receive. Final distributions will likely not take place on the same day for the two cases. When a date for a final distribution in each case can reasonably be determined, appropriate claimants will be notified of the planned timing.

As for the amount of the final distribution, that also is dependent on the resolution of all outstanding claims and will be different for the Delta and Northwest cases. Until these processes are complete, we cannot say with any certainty what the size of the final distribution will be. It is likely, however, that the initial and interim (if any) distributions to a Delta or Northwest creditor will represent the significant majority of that creditor's total distribution.