

Approved: March 29, 2018.

Laurie Brimmer,

Senior Tax Analyst.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Billups at 1-888-912-1227 or (214) 413-6523.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee will be held Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time via teleconference. The public is invited to make oral comments or submit written statements for consideration. For more information please contact Lisa Billups at 1-888-912-1227 or (214) 413-6523, or write TAP Office 1114 Commerce Street, Dallas, TX 75242-1021, or post comments to the website: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The agenda will include various committee issues for submission to the IRS and other TAP related topics. Public input is welcomed.

Dated: March 28, 2018.

Antoinette Ross,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2018-06769 Filed 4-3-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Disruption of Mail Service

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of exception to date of receipt.

SUMMARY: In late August 2017, Hurricane Harvey interrupted operations at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regional office in Houston, Texas, as well as postal service in multiple Texas communities. In late September 2017, Hurricane Maria interrupted operations at the VA regional office in Puerto Rico, and postal service throughout the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands area. Correspondence containing claims, information, or evidence sent to VA during these periods was likely delayed due to interrupted operations of the regional office or postal service. VA aims to protect the interest of claimants who sent correspondence to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) through the normal channels of communication during these periods and prevent them from possibly being deprived of benefits solely because those channels of communication were disrupted due to events outside of the claimants' control. Therefore, VA is instituting procedures to consider alternative dates as the date of receipt of correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Hughes, Acting Assistant Director, Policy and Procedures, Compensation Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9700 (this is not a toll-free telephone number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A VA regulation, 38 CFR 3.1(r), allows the Under Secretary for Benefits to establish exceptions to VA's rule about date of receipt of claims, information, or evidence. Ordinarily, "date of receipt" means the date on which a claim, information or evidence was received in a VA office. The regulation states that exceptions may be established when a natural or man-made interference with

the normal channels through which VA ordinarily receives correspondence has resulted in one or more VA regional offices experiencing extended delays in receipt of claims, information or evidence to an extent that, if not addressed, the delay would adversely affect such claimants, through no fault of their own.

In late August 2017, Hurricane Harvey interrupted operations at the VA regional office in Houston, Texas, as well as postal service in multiple surrounding Texas communities. In late September 2017, Hurricane Maria interrupted operations at the VA regional office in Puerto Rico, as well as postal service in the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands areas. Correspondence containing claims, information or evidence sent to VA during these periods was likely delayed due to interrupted operations of the regional office or postal service. Because regional offices and the mail system were impacted, VA established the following exceptions to the standard rule, on date of receipt.

Exceptions to Date of Receipt for Claimants Affected By Hurricane Harvey

VA hereby gives notice that, for purposes of determining the date of entitlement, any correspondence received by VA during the period September 1 through September 7, 2017, from individuals in zip codes designated to have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey that contained claims, information or evidence will be considered received no later than August 31, 2017. Alternatively, if the correspondence was received during the period September 1 through September 7, 2017, but the postmark date is prior to August 31, 2017, the correspondence will be considered received on the date of postmark.

This guidance applies to correspondence received during the designated period from the zip codes designated below.

ZIP CODES IMPACTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY

75928	77062	77252	77364	77467	77573	77950	78393
75930	77063	77253	77365	77468	77574	77951	78401
75931	77064	77254	77367	77469	77575	77954	78402
75932	77065	77255	77368	77470	77577	77957	78403
75933	77066	77256	77369	77471	77578	77960	78404
75934	77067	77257	77371	77473	77580	77961	78405
75936	77068	77258	77372	77474	77581	77962	78406
75938	77069	77259	77373	77475	77582	77963	78407
75939	77070	77261	77374	77476	77583	77964	78408
75942	77071	77262	77375	77477	77584	77967	78409