
ARC Monthly Bulletin – November 2010

Valuable information for ARC's customers

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1. New Redesign of Customer Access Pages

We are happy to report that the project to update all customer access pages to better match our external website, has been completed. Deployment of the new sites began August 19, 2010 and was completed on November 1, 2010. As you use the newly designed site, please keep in mind that we appreciate your feedback. Please forward your ideas, questions, enhancement ideas, and concerns to our communications mailbox at arccommunicationsmailbox@bpd.treas.gov.

One reminder: to ensure the best possible experience when visiting ARC websites, we recommend that you use a current Internet browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 and higher). When you use the latest version of a browser, you will enjoy our website as it is meant to be experienced. The site has also been successfully tested with Internet Explorer 6.0 and Firefox 3.0.

2. Fiscal Year 2010 Audit Status

Although Fiscal Year 2010 ended on September 30 for 22 of our customer agencies, audits of the past fiscal year's financial activity, balances, and related internal controls will continue through much of November. Once the September accounting period closes, our employees and customer agencies interact with financial statement auditors on a daily basis. Auditors perform tests of operating controls and substantiate financial activity and balances in order to provide an opinion on the fair presentation of an agency's financial statements and related footnotes. We are happy to report that all 22 of our audited customer agencies are expecting an unqualified ("clean") audit opinion! We are proud of this accomplishment and believe that it is attributable to the strong partnership between ARC and each of you.

If you have any questions regarding ARC's customer agency audits, please contact Dana Morr at 304-480-7071 or dana.morr@bpd.treas.gov.

3. IPAC System Recertification

Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) recently notified Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and Deputy CFOs that agencies must complete Intra-governmental Payment and Collection (IPAC) system user recertification by February 24, 2011. This year's recertification covers the period January 1 through December 31, 2010. On February 25, 2011, FMS will begin removing IPAC system access for those users who have not been recertified.

Our IPAC system administrators will manage the recertification of ARC's users who have access to the IPAC system to initiate and/or review IPAC transactions impacting the Agency Location Codes (ALC) of customer agencies. No action will be necessary on your part unless you have internal IPAC users who will also require recertification.

If you have any questions regarding ARC's recertification of IPAC system users, please contact Donna Jarrell at 304-480-7001 or donna.jarrell@bpd.treas.gov.

4. 2010 Federal Benefits Open Season

The 2010 Federal Benefits Open Season runs from November 8 through December 13, 2010. The annual open season allows eligible federal employees to elect or make changes to Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) coverage, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) coverage, and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) contributions. The 2011 brochures, plan comparison tools, and other open season resource materials are available on the Office of Personnel Management website (www.opm.gov/insure).

For more information about the open season, contact Jennifer Baldwin at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov.

5. Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) "Lifecycle" (L) 2010 Fund to Close

The (TSP) has a number of Lifecycle (L) investment funds that use professionally determined investment mixes tailored to meet financial objectives based on when TSP monies are expected to be withdrawn after separation from Federal service. Each L Fund's investment mix becomes more conservative as the fund's target date approaches. The L 2010 Fund, designed for employees who expect to leave Federal service and withdraw TSP monies from now through 2014, reached its time horizon on July 1, 2010, and now has a final asset allocation that is identical to the L Income Fund. On December 31, 2010, the L 2010 Fund will be closed. All investments in the L 2010 Fund will automatically be moved to the L Income Fund at that time. No action will be necessary by employees. In addition, any portion of future contributions allocated to the L 2010 Fund will be automatically changed to the L Income Fund.

To make a contribution allocation or an interfund transfer, or to view more specific information about the closing of the L 2010 Fund, visit www.tsp.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Baldwin at 304-480-8275 or benefits@bpd.treas.gov if you have TSP questions.

6. Treasury's Fiscal Service IT Initiative

As reported earlier this year, the Bureau of the Public Debt and the Financial Management Service (FMS) will be consolidating data centers and infrastructure as part of a Fiscal Service IT initiative. IT operations will be consolidated to Public Debt's Third Street Data Center located in Parkersburg and Financial Management Service's Kansas City Data Center. To facilitate consolidation activities, Public Debt and FMS network teams enhanced the connectivity between the two data centers. The modifications provide the necessary ground-work to support and enable the remaining Fiscal IT server and application deployment activities. A fully redundant

Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) is now deployed and operational at Kansas City. The backup TIC at Kansas City provides additional geographical separation to better ensure the availability of services to our customers. Data center connectivity between Parkersburg and Kansas City has been upgraded and bandwidth between the two data centers has been expanded significantly. Internet failover has been successfully tested between the two data centers. Under this fully redundant network configuration the Third Street Data Center can lose all local Internet connectivity and still maintain available Internet presence through the Kansas City facility.

For more information on the Fiscal IT Initiative, please contact Helen Reilly at (304) 480-6179, or helen.reilly@bpd.treas.gov.

7. GovTrip Training Scheduled for December

We will provide quarterly GovTrip refresher training to our DC customers at the EEI Communications training facility in Silver Spring, MD. The quarterly training will take place December 8, 2010, with two sessions available: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is no additional charge to our customers for this training. Participants receive hands-on experience in preparing travel authorizations with reservations, creating travel vouchers from the authorizations, and creating local vouchers. Also covered are adjustments, amendments, and reviewing and approving documents. Travel contacts will receive training details via email.

For more information, please contact Travel Services at 304-480-8000 option 1 or travel@bpd.treas.gov.

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