

Daily Labor Report, July 15, 2013
EEOC to Cancel Additional Furlough Days
In FY 2013 After Assessment of Finances

By [Louis C. LaBrecque](#)

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will not be imposing three additional unpaid furlough days on its employees during fiscal year 2013 beyond the five days of furloughs employees took between April 22 and June 28, the union representing EEOC employees said in a July 11 statement.

Gabrielle Martin, president of the American Federation of Government Employees' National Council of EEOC Locals No. 216, said in the union's statement that EEOC sent an email to its staff July 11 confirming that there would not be a second round of furloughs. The agency recently concluded an assessment period that began July 1 to determine whether employees would be sent home without pay for three additional days before the Sept. 30 end of FY 2013 ([123 DLR A-12, 6/26/13](#)).

"We applaud the EEOC for making the right decision. Furloughs harm the public, harm EEOC employees and their families, and harm the communities in which they reside," Martin said. She thanked EEOC employees, the national union, and the agency's supporters for "persuading EEOC that wringing savings out of frontline employees is counterproductive to carrying out our civil rights mission."

Martin added, however, that "the tough times are not over."

Unless Congress agrees to undo sequestration—the across-the-board cuts to federal spending put into place by the Budget Control Act, which President Obama signed into law in August 2011 ([148 DLR A-10, 8/2/11](#))—it is "here to stay for the next 10 years," Martin said. She noted that a draft appropriations bill being considered by the House would reduce EEOC's fiscal year 2014 budget by \$15 million below the \$370 million FY 2013 base funding level ([132 DLR A-17, 7/10/13](#)).

The president's FY 2014 budget request for EEOC was \$373 million.

Union Calls for Cutting Travel, Service Contracts

"The union will have two goals as we move forward: one, end sequestration; and two, prevent future furloughs. We will work to help Congress and the public understand that sequestration is harmful. Taking a meat axe to the federal budget causes inefficient results," Martin said.

She said money-saving initiatives supported by AFGE for the agency include using video teleconferences to end wasteful management travel, discontinuing service contracts for work EEOC employees can perform, and reducing office space through expanded voluntary telework.

EEOC spokeswoman Christine Saah Nazer in a July 12 email confirmed without further comment that commission Chair Jacqueline A. Berrien, based on an analysis conducted by the agency's chief financial officer, had notified EEOC staff that the agency did not intend to proceed with the second round of furloughs.