

Notice Revoking Deposit Account Authorization

This patent application was impacted by an Agency fee processing system (“Fee Processing Next Generation”, or FPNG) affecting Electronic Payment Receipts that occurred on Wednesday, October 9 (from 8 a.m. until 4:39 p.m. ET), and then again between Thursday, October 10 (from 12 p.m. ET) through Friday, October 18 (until 3:54 p.m. ET). In general, Patent customers who paid fees during these periods using any of the accepted payment methods (i.e., credit/debit card, EFT, or deposit account) were impacted due to this FPNG issue.

What Happened

In impacted applications, the Electronic Payment Receipts (N417.PYMT documents) displayed correct information about the fees that were actually charged to the customer-selected payment methods shown under the “Payment Method” heading. However, the Electronic Payment Receipts also displayed two types of potentially incorrect information about pre-authorizations to charge fees. First, under the “Pre-Authorized Account” heading, particular deposit accounts were identified as pre-authorized for payment of fee deficiencies if payment was made by deposit account, regardless of whether customers intended to pre-authorize those accounts. Second, under the “Pre-Authorized Category”, all the available category options (37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20, and 1.21 fees) were identified as pre-authorized, regardless of whether customers intended to select none, one, some, or all of the applicable categories and regardless of how fees were paid. No deposit account number was listed under the “Pre-Authorized Account” heading if applicant paid by credit/debit card or EFT.

Since it cannot be determined whether applicant intended to submit the pre-authorization in this application, the pre-authorization to charge fees reflected on the Electronic Payment Receipt (N417.PYMT) is not effective and, to the extent an authorization was made, it has been revoked.

What You Need To Do

If applicant wants to submit an authorization to charge fees to a deposit account in this application, the applicant should submit a miscellaneous letter (if using Patent Center, use: Document Code: LET.; Document description: Miscellaneous incoming letter) including any desired general authorization to charge fees to a deposit account.

If fees were charged against your deposit account based on an erroneous pre-authorization displayed on an Electronic Payment Receipt issued during the affected time periods, you may submit a request for refund (e.g., PTO-2326) indicating that a pre-authorization to charge fees to a deposit account was not made in this application.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to FeesHelp@uspto.gov.