

December 17, 2004, (3) ML050680216 for the licensee's supplement of March 1, 2005 and (4) ML050960492 for the licensee's supplement of March 29, 2005. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

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Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of April, 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Daniel M. Gillen,

Deputy Director, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 05-7657 Filed 4-15-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Updated notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) on April 20 and 21, 2005. Although the dates of the ACMUI public meeting remain April 20 and 21, as originally published in the February 28, 2005 notice (see 70 FR 9611), this notice is meant to alert interested parties that the time for the ACMUI's briefing to the Commission has changed. See heading below entitled "Date and Time for Commission Briefing" for details. A sample of agenda items to be discussed during the public sessions includes: (1) Status of Rulemaking; Pt. 35 Training and Experience; (2) Status and Update: Redefining Medical Events; (3) Case Experience in Using I-125 Seeds as Markers; (4) FDA Radiation Dose Limits for Human Research Subjects Using Certain Radiolabeled Drugs, and (5) Establishing Guidance on Exceeding Dose Limits for Members of the Public who would serve as Caregivers to Persons undergoing Radiopharmaceutical Therapy. To review the agenda, see <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acmui/agenda/> or contact arm@nrc.gov.

Purpose: Discuss issues related to 10 CFR 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material.

Date and Time for Closed Session Meeting: April 21, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. This session will be closed so that NRC staff can brief the ACMUI on sensitive information regarding protective security measures, and so that the ACMUI can discuss internal personnel matters.

Dates and Times for Public Meetings: April 20, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and April 21, 2005, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address for Public Meetings: Bethesda North Marriott Hotel, 5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda, MD 20852-2785.

Date and Time for Commission Briefing: April 20, 2005, from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela R. McIntosh, telephone (301) 415-5030; e-mail arw@nrc.gov of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Conduct of the Meeting

Leon S. Malmud, M.D., will chair the meeting. Dr. Malmud will conduct the meeting in a manner that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. The following procedures apply to public participation in the meeting:

1. Persons who wish to provide a written statement should submit a reproducible copy to Angela R. McIntosh, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Two White Flint North, Mail Stop T8F5, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738. Submittals must be postmarked by April 1, 2005, and must pertain to the topics on the agenda for the meeting.

2. Questions from members of the public will be permitted during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairman.

3. The transcript and written comments will be available for inspection on NRC's Web site (www.nrc.gov) and at the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738, telephone (800) 397-4209, on or about July 20, 2005. This meeting will be held in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (primarily Section 161a); the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App); and the Commission's regulations in Title 10, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 7.

4. Attendees are requested to notify Angela R. McIntosh at (301) 415-5030 of

their planned attendance if special services, such as for the hearing impaired, are necessary.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of April, 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-7655 Filed 4-17-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Sunshine Act; Board of Directors Meeting

TIME AND DATE: Thursday, April 28, 2005, 10 a.m. (open portion); 10:15 a.m. (closed portion).

PLACE: Offices of the Corporation, Twelfth Floor Board Room, 1100 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Meeting open to the Public from 10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.; Closed portion will commence at 10:15 a.m. (approx.)

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. President's Report.
2. Testimonials: Alan P. Larson, Peter S. Watson and Grant L. Aldonas.
3. Approval of January 27, 2005 minutes (open portion).

FURTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

(Closed to the public 10:15 a.m.)

1. Finance Project—India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malaysia.
2. Finance Project—Zambia.
3. Finance Project—Asia.
4. Finance Project—Afghanistan.
5. Approval of January 27, 2005 Minutes (closed portion).
6. Pending Major Projects.
7. Reports. Update on project in India

CONTACT PERSON FOR INFORMATION:

Information on the meeting may be obtained from Connie M. Downs at (202) 336-8438.

Dated: April 14, 2005.

Connie M. Downs,

Corporate Secretary, Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

[FR Doc. 05-7782 Filed 4-14-05; 12:40 pm]

BILLING CODE 3210-01-M

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Order No. 1436; Docket No. R2005-1]

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice and order in omnibus rate filing.

DATES: May 2, 2005: Deadline for notices of intervention, answers to

motions and comments on request for expedition; May 5, 2005: Prehearing conference.

ADDRESSES: File notices of intervention and other documents electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>.

SUMMARY: This document informs the public that the United States Postal Service has filed a request for an expedited decision on proposed changes in essentially all domestic postage rate and fee changes, and notes that the Commission has taken several procedural steps in response to the filing. The request does not identify any proposed changes in mail classification or rate structure. The request, on average, seeks an across-the-board increase of 5.4 percent; however, there are limited (and in some instances, significant) exceptions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharman, General Counsel, (202) 789-6818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Summary. This notice and order (Order) informs the public that on April 8, 2005, the United States Postal Service filed a formal Request with the Postal Rate Commission for an expedited recommended decision on proposed changes in domestic postage rates and fees for all classes of mail and special services, with the exception of Confirm, which is a special service.¹ The Request does not identify any classification or rate structure changes. Interested persons are urged to carefully review the Service's filing in its entirety to determine the impact of the proposals.

The Request is unique in that it is premised on several policy conclusions associated with funding a pending escrow obligation associated with Public Law 108-18.² These conclusions entail, among others, a decision to seek a 5.4 percent across-the-board increase for most rates and fees, with certain limited (but in at least three instances, significant) exceptions. The exceptions are attributed to a statutory requirement (in the case of Within County Periodicals mail); reported increases in

costs (for Registered Mail and the Periodicals Re-entry Application), and rounding conventions (in many instances).

Significant exceptions. The Service's Within County proposal entails a 5.4 percent decrease on average. USPS-T-28 at 14. The Registered Mail fee proposals entail increases of around 70 percent. Id. at Exhibit USPS-28A, Table 10 at 57. The fee for Periodical Re-entry Application increases by 12.5 percent. Id. at 55.

Costing support. The Service asserts that the proposed across-the-board approach treats all mail categories and services equally, while relegating specific costing issues to a secondary role in the supporting record.

First-Class stamp. The price of the First-Class stamp under the Service's proposal would increase by 2 cents, thereby going from 37 cents to 39 cents. The rate for additional ounces of First-Class Mail would increase by 1 cent, from 23 cents to 24 cents.

Interest in expedition and settlement. The Service seeks maximum expedition of its Request, early implementation of resulting rates and fees (in calendar 2006), and suggests, based on efforts underway prior to filing, that there is a strong likelihood that all material issues can be settled.

Initial action. This Order summarizes key features of the filing, including accompanying notices, motions and requests, and institutes a formal proceeding for consideration of the Service's proposals. It sets May 5, 2005 as the date for a prehearing conference, identifies certain other deadlines, and takes several preliminary procedural steps. The latter include authorization of settlement proceedings, based in part on the Service's representations that substantial support for settlement already exists, and appointment of the Postal Service as settlement coordinator.

II. Establishment of Formal Docket

The Request was filed pursuant to chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, based on the Service's determination that such changes would be in the public interest and in accordance with policies of that title. The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 3622, designated as Docket No. R2005-1, Postal Rate and Fee Changes, to consider the instant request. In the course thereof, participants may propose alternatives to the Service's proposal, and the Service itself may revise, supplement, or amend its filing. The Commission's review of the Request, including any revisions, alternatives proposed by others, or

options legally within the purview of the Service's request, may result in recommendations that differ from proposed rates and fees.

III. Availability, Web Site Posting

The Commission has posted the Request and related material on its Web site at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional Postal Service filings in this case will also be posted on the Web site, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission's Web site is available online or by contacting the Commission's webmaster via telephone at (202) 789-6873 or via electronic mail at prc-webmaster@prc.gov.

The Request and related documents are available for public inspection in the Commission's docket section. Docket section hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on federal government holidays. Docket section personnel can be contacted via electronic mail at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at (202) 789-6846. The Service addresses how intervenors can obtain paper copies of its filing in Notice of the United States Postal Service Regarding Availability and Distribution of Paper Copies of the Postal Service Direct Case, April 8, 2005 (Notice Regarding Distribution).

IV. Contents of the Service's Filing

The Service's Docket No. R2005-1 filing includes its formal Request, along with an explicit request for expedition; six attachments; 33 pieces of testimony (and related exhibits) presented by 31 witnesses; and 116 library references.³ Witness Potter (USPS-T-1) addresses the policy rationale underlying the Request, which centers mainly on the aforementioned CSRS escrow funding obligation. Witness Alenier (USPS-T-33) presents "roadmap" testimony in compliance with Commission rule 53(b). This testimony includes, among other pertinent information, two attachments, captioned Roadmap Testimony Quick Reference Guide (Attachment 1) and Postal Testimony Flowchart (Attachment 2). A master list of library references also appears in Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of Master List of Library References, April 8, 2005.

³ The Service has prepared, but withheld, one library reference (USPS-LR-K-85) pending resolution of a request for protective conditions. See Motion of United States Postal Service for Waiver and for Protective Conditions for Library Reference that Includes Costs and Other Data Associated with the FedEx Transportation Agreement, April 8, 2005 (Combined Waiver Motion).

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for a Recommended Decision on Changes in Rates of Postage and Fees for Postal Services, Docket No. R2005-1, April 8, 2005 (Request); United States Postal Service Request for Expedition and Early Consideration of Procedures Facilitating Settlement Efforts, April 8, 2005 (Request for Expedition). The Service's rationale for excluding Confirm from its Request is presented in Notice of the United States Postal Service Regarding Exclusion of Confirm Service from General Rate Proceeding, April 8, 2005 (Notice Regarding Confirm Service).

² The Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003.

Witness Robinson (USPS–T–27) addresses rate levels; witness Taufique (USPS–T–28) reviews current and proposed rates.

Attachments to the Request.

Attachment A, Requested Changes in Rates and Fees, identifies requested changes in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS). Attachment B, Specification of the Rules, Regulations, and Practices That Establish Standards of Service and Conditions of Mailability, addresses Commission rule 54(b)(2), and designates the contents of the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) as specifying those rules, regulations and practices establishing conditions of mailability and standards of service. It also provides a copy of the table of contents of the DMM (updated as of March 17, 2005). The DMM is available for review on the Postal Service's Web site, <http://www.USPS.gov>.

Attachment C is the certification, required by rule 54(p), attesting to the accuracy of cost statements and other documentation submitted with the Request. Attachment D consists of a report of the Service's independent auditors, and includes related audited financial statements. Attachment E is an index that identifies witnesses, the numerical designation of each piece of testimony, related exhibits and library references, and attorney contacts. Attachment F is a compliance statement addressing pertinent provisions of rules 53, 54 and 64, and refers to a separate notice and motion for waiver related to the alternate cost presentation required by these rules.

The Service contemporaneously filed several motions pertaining to library references, including one that seeks protective conditions. It also filed, including the Library Reference Notice, several notices.

I. Summary of the Nature and Impact of the Proposed Changes

Defining feature. The defining feature of the Service's Request is that it is based on several policy judgments linked solely to funding an escrow obligation. This obligation was imposed by Public Law 108–18, and requires the Service to begin annual funding of an escrow account in fiscal year 2006.⁴ The escrow amount, which the law identifies as an operating expense, is \$3.1 billion. The Service expresses an intention to withdraw the case should the referenced law be changed in a

fashion that precludes the need to meet this obligation.

The escrow obligation gives rise to several related policy conclusions on the part of Postal Service regarding the need for, amount, timing and nature of its Request. In particular, the Service concludes that it must file a request now so that it will have revenue to meet this obligation; that it would not seek an increase at this time in the absence of this obligation; that all costs related to this obligation are institutional; that an across-the-board approach is appropriate, except in situations involving a statutory requirement, significantly higher reported costs, or rounding conventions; and that no classification and rate structure changes should be proposed. These conclusions, in turn, drive the Service's request for maximum expedition, based on a belief that this case can be settled, and its interest in early implementation of resulting rate and fee changes.

Proposed changes. The Service presents a summary of the percentage changes in proposed rates relative to current rates at USPS–T–27, Exhibit USPS–27D. These percentages are reproduced below:

	Docket No. R2005–1 proposed percentage change
First-Class Mail:	
Letters and Sealed Parcels ..	5.3
Cards	4.9
Priority Mail	5.4
Express Mail	5.5
Periodicals:	
<i>Within County</i>	– 5.4
<i>Outside County</i>	5.4
Standard Mail:	
Regular	5.4
Nonprofit	5.5
Enhanced Carrier Route	5.5
Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route	6.0
Package Services:	
Parcel Post	5.4
Bound Printed Matter	5.5
Media Mail	5.4
Library Mail	5.7
Total All Mail	5.4

See also USPS–T–28 in its entirety for other representations of proposed percentage rate changes. A summary of proposed percentage changes for special services appears at USPS–T–27, Exhibit USPS–27F and at USPS–28, Exhibit USPS–28A, Table 10 at 53–59.

VI. Expedition and Settlement

In its separate but related Request for Expedition, the Service seeks early resolution of its Request, expresses

interest in implementing the proposed rate and fee changes in early calendar year 2006, and suggests that that there is a strong likelihood that most, if not all, participants will sign a Stipulation and Agreement. It documents efforts toward achieving a settlement that have been underway for some time, and therefore seeks maximum expedition of its Request. These include, among others, discussions and individual consultations, a general letter corresponding with all parties of record in Docket No. R2001–1. This letter outlines the Service's proposal, reports on the general state of negotiations with prospective participants up to that point, and invites all prospective participants to engage in further discussions leading to settlement. *Id.* at 5–6. The letter is set out as an attachment to the Request for Expedition.

The Service suggests that consideration of the request could be completed in less than 10 months (the statutory maximum) without interfering with the Commission's interests or compromising participants' due process rights. It further maintains that several benefits (primarily associated with implementation) would flow from completing the case even one month earlier than the statutory maximum.

The Service states that the distinct circumstances of this case and the nature of its proposals have improved settlement potential relative to the settlement posture of Docket No. R2001–1. *Id.* at 5. It notes that it has been consulting individually with mailers, mailer associations, and other likely participants in upcoming proceedings. *Id.* at 5. In particular, it states that it has consulted 38 out of 64 participants in Docket No. R2001–1, as well as some organizations and individual mailers who do not typically intervene separately from their membership in associations. *Id.* at 8.

The Service believes that many of the interim dates in the overall procedural schedule can be advanced, relative to previous omnibus proceedings, and that other aspects, such as discovery, can be compressed. The Service's proposed schedule is set out in an attachment to the Request for Expedition.

VII. Postal Service Notice Regarding Exclusion of Confirm Service From Request

The Service does not propose any change in the fees for Confirm service.⁵

⁵ Confirm is a special service that was recommended and approved as a result of Docket No. MC2002–1. It involves the use of PLANET

⁴ Additional information on the escrow requirement is provided in USPS–T–1.

The Service briefly reviews the introduction, development and current status of this offering in its Notice Regarding Confirm Service. It generally concludes that Confirm has shown promise in actual operations, but has experienced significant implementation complications; has attracted a base of customers who are still learning how to use this offering; and has encountered a market that is relatively slow to react. Notice Regarding Confirm Service at 1–2.

The Service's assessment is that Confirm is being offered in the context of comparatively rapid evolution of the Confirm infrastructure and steep learning curves for both customers and the Postal Service in determining how Confirm can best be used. Given this context, it has determined that an in-depth review of Confirm operations and performance and an evaluation of its price structure is warranted. It therefore concludes that it would be premature to propose increased fees at this time. The Service further states that it is evaluating its options, including the potential for changing the structure of the fee schedule, and expects that it will address both fees and service aspects of Confirm in a separate, future proceeding. *Id.* at 2–3.

VIII. Motions for Waiver of Various Commission Rules, Including a Combined Pleading Seeking Protective Conditions Prior to Filing USPS–LR–K–85

*Motions for waiver of certain provisions of the library references rules for Category 1, 2, 3 and 5 library references.*⁶ In four separate motions, the Service seeks waiver, to the extent deemed necessary, of the Commission's rules on library references for documents in the following categories: Category 1 (Data Reporting Systems); 2 (Witness Foundational Material); 3 (Reference Material); and 5 (Disassociated Material). Each motion clearly identifies the library references proposed to be covered by the waiver request. *See* Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 1 Library References; Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 2 Library References; Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 3 Library References; and

Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 5 Library References, all filed April 8, 2005 (Waiver Motions). Answers to the referenced Waiver Motions are due no later than May 2, 2005.

Combined motion for waiver of certain rules and request for protective conditions in connection with FedEx transportation agreement (USPS–LR–K–85). The Postal Service has prepared, but not filed, USPS–LR–K–85, Calculation of FedEx Variability. This document is identified as a category 2 library reference sponsored by witness Nash (USPS–T–17). Combined Waiver Motion at 1. The Service's reason for withholding this document is its interest in application of protective conditions. The proposed conditions appear as Attachment A to the Service's Combined Waiver Motion. The Service also seeks waiver of relevant portions of rules 31(k) and 54 for this document.

In support of its interest in protective conditions, the Service states the FedEx agreement contains commercially sensitive information, given that it includes daily volume information and cost data for fuel charges, non-fuel charges, and handling charges, all on a daily basis, as well as applicable contract prices. *Id.* at 1. It also, among other things, notes that similar conditions were granted by the Postal Rate Commission in Docket No. R2001–1 for FedEx data. *Id.* at 2–3, citing Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2001–1/5 (October 31, 2001). Answers to the Service Combined Waiver Motion are due no later than May 2, 2005.

IX. Participation

The Commission invites participation in this case by interested persons. Commission rules allow a participant to elect full, limited or commenter status. Persons electing full or limited status shall file notices of intervention conforming to Commission rules no later than May 2, 2005. Persons seeking to intervene on a full or limited basis after that date must file a motion for intervention. Commenters do not need to file intervention notices or motions; instead, they may direct their comments to the attention of Steven W. Williams, Secretary of the Commission, 1333 H Street NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001. Commenters may also submit their views via electronic mail by addressing them to *prc-admin@prc.gov*. Persons unsure of their intervention status under the Commission's rules or seeking more information on how to participate in this case should contact Shelley S.

Dreifuss, Director of the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate, by telephone at (202) 789–6837 or via electronic mail at *dreifuss@prc.gov*.

X. Representation of the Interests of the General Public

The Commission designates Shelley S. Dreifuss, director of the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate, to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3624(a). Ms. Dreifuss shall direct the activities of Commission personnel assigned to assist her and, at an appropriate time, provide the names of these employees for the record. Neither Ms. Dreifuss nor the assigned personnel shall participate in or advise as to any Commission decision in this proceeding, other than in their designated capacity.

XI. Prehearing Conference Date; Other Scheduling Matters

The Commission will hold a prehearing conference on Thursday, May 5, 2005, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room, 1333 H Street NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001. The Commission appreciates the Service's interest in and efforts related to an expedited schedule. The intervention deadline and date for the prehearing conference responds in part to this interest. It is anticipated that the Presiding Officer will promptly issue a ruling addressing topics to be discussed at the prehearing conference and inviting participants to suggest other relevant topics. Other procedural matters, including the compressed schedule the Service seeks, will be addressed shortly. It is ordered:

1. The Commission hereby institutes Docket No. R2005–1 for consideration of the Service's request for omnibus rate and fee changes.

2. The Commission will sit en banc in this proceeding.

3. Notices of intervention will be accepted through May 2, 2005.

4. Shelley S. Dreifuss, director of the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate, is designated to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

5. The Commission authorizes settlement negotiations, without prejudice to participants' opportunity to seek a hearing.

6. The Commission appoints the Postal Service as settlement coordinator.

7. A prehearing conference will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2005, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

8. Comments on the need for expedition and procedures for

barcodes to track mail as it flows through the system.

⁶ Library reference categories are identified in Commission rule 31(b)(2).

facilitating settlement of this case are due no later than May 2, 2005.

9. Answers to the Motion of the United States Postal Service for Waiver and for Protective Conditions for Library Reference that Includes Costs and Other Data Associated with the FedEx Transportation Agreement, filed April 8, 2005, are due no later than May 2, 2005.

10. Answers to Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 1 Library References, filed April 8, 2005, are due no later than May 2, 2005.

11. Answers to the Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 2 Library References, filed April 8, 2005, are due no later than May 2, 2005.

12. Answers to the Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 3 Library References, filed April 8, 2005, are due no later than May 2, 2005.

13. Answers to the Motion of the United States Postal Service Requesting Waiver of the Commission Rules with Respect to Category 5 Library References, filed April 8, 2005, are due no later than May 2, 2005.

14. The Secretary shall cause this Notice and Order to be published in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Steven W. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-7613 Filed 4-15-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

POSTAL SERVICE

Request for Comments on the Strategic Transformation Plan 2006–2010

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: This Notice addresses the Postal Service's Strategic Transformation Plan 2006–2010.

By law, beginning in 1997, the Postal Service™ is required to publish a five-year plan outlining its goals, targets, and strategies, and to update and revise its five-year plan at intervals of no less than 3 years. In support of its strategic planning process, the law requires the Postal Service to solicit and consider the ideas, knowledge, and opinions of those potentially affected by or interested in its Five-Year Strategic Plan.

In addition, at the request of Congress, in 2002 the Postal Service prepared a

comprehensive plan for the structural transformation of the postal system to meet the challenges of serving the American public. This first Transformation Plan covered the years 2002–2006. A major component of the next Five-Year Strategic Plan, covering 2006–2010, will be the extension of the Postal Service's Transformation Plan through the same period. This notice asks for public comment concerning the development and drafting of the Postal Service's combined document, the *Strategic Transformation Plan 2006–2010*.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 15, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Those responding are requested to e-mail their comments to transform@usps.gov. Those wishing to send written comments should mail them to USPS Office of Strategic Planning, Stakeholder Feedback, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Room 5142, Washington, DC 20260–5142. All stakeholders are encouraged to view the Postal Service's Web page dedicated to soliciting comments on its Strategic Transformation Plan 2006–2010 located at <http://www.usps.com/strategicplanning/2006–2010.htm>. Stakeholders are requested to review the content of this Web site before submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George R. Bagay (202) 268–4159.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Five-Year Strategic Plan Statutory Background

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA), Public Law 103–62, was enacted to make Federal programs more effective and publicly accountable by requiring agencies to institute results-driven improvement efforts, service-quality metrics, and customer satisfaction programs. Other statutory goals were to improve Congressional decision-making and the internal management of the United States government. Because of the Postal Service's position as an independent establishment of the Executive Branch of the government of the United States, section 7 of the law amended the Postal Reorganization Act to insert similar provisions for performance management in the Postal Service. (See 39 U.S.C. 2801–2805.)

Section 2802 of title 39, United States Code, requires the Postal Service to update and revise its strategic plan at least every 3 years. This plan must contain:

(1) A comprehensive mission statement covering the major functions and operations.

(2) General goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for the major functions and operations.

(3) Descriptions of how these goals and objectives are to be achieved and of the operational processes; skills and technology; and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to meet the goals and objectives.

(4) A description of how the performance goals included in the annual performance plan required under section 2803 will be related to the general goals and objectives in the strategic plan.

(5) An identification of the key factors external to the Postal Service and beyond its control that could significantly affect the achievement of its general goals and objectives.

(6) A description of the program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives, with a schedule for future program evaluations. (See 39 U.S.C. 2802(a).)

The law also requires annual performance plans linking the organizational goals in the Strategic Plan with ongoing operations. Finally, the law requires the preparation of annual performance reports, which review and compare actual performance with the performance targets stated in the annual plans. (See 39 U.S.C. 2804.)

In order to include public participation in this planning process, the statute provides that the Postal Service, as it develops each new iteration of the Strategic Plan, “shall solicit and consider the views and suggestions of those entities potentially affected by or interested in such a plan, and shall advise the Congress of the contents of the plan.” (See 39 U.S.C. 2802(d).)

Transformation Background

On April 4, 2001, the Comptroller General of the United States advised the House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform that the Postal Service “faces major challenges that collectively call for a structural transformation if it is to remain viable in the 21st century.” He called on the Postal Service, in conjunction with all stakeholders, to prepare a comprehensive plan identifying “the actions needed to address the Service's financial, operational, and human capital challenges and establish a time frame and specify key milestones for achieving positive results.” On June 14, 2001, the Chair and ranking members of the Committee on Governmental Affairs and its Postal Oversight Subcommittee wrote to Postmaster General John E.