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Dated: July 29, 2011.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

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BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. A2011-34; Order No. 782]

Post Office Closing

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document informs the public that an appeal of the closing of the Innis, Louisiana post office has been filed. It identifies preliminary steps and

provides a procedural schedule. Publication of this document will allow the Postal Service, petitioners, and others to take appropriate action.

DATES: *Administrative record due (from Postal Service):* August 10, 2011; *deadline for notices to intervene:* August 23, 2011. See the Procedural Schedule in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for other dates of interest.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically by accessing the "Filing Online" link in the banner at the top of the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>) or by directly accessing the Commission's Filing Online system at <https://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/filing-online/login.aspx>. Commenters who cannot submit their views electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section as the source for case-related information for advice on alternatives to electronic filing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820 (case-related information) or DocketAdmins@prc.gov (electronic filing assistance).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(d), on July 26, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the post office in Innis, Louisiana. The petition was filed by Larry Rebalais (Petitioner) and is postmarked July 19, 2011. The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5) and establishes Docket No. A2011-34 to consider Petitioner's appeal. If Petitioner would like to further explain his position with supplemental information or facts, Petitioner may either file a Participant Statement on PRC Form 61 or file a brief with the Commission no later than August 30, 2011.

Categories of issues apparently raised. Petitioner contends that: (1) The Postal Service failed to consider the effect of the closing on the community (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(i)); and (2) the Postal Service failed to adequately consider the economic savings resulting from the closure (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(iv)).

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above, or that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues. The deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record with the Commission is August 10, 2011. See 39 CFR 3001.113. In addition, the due

date for any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this notice is August 10, 2011.

Availability; Web site posting. The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its Web site at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participants' submissions also will be posted on the Commission's 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 appeal and all related documents are also 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 may be contacted via electronic mail at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

Filing of documents. All filings of documents in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a) at the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is obtained. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be found on the Commission's Web site or by contacting the Commission's docket section at prc-dockets@prc.gov or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

The Commission reserves the right to redact personal information which may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

Intervention. Persons, other than the Petitioner and respondent, wishing to be heard in this matter are directed to file a notice of intervention. See 39 CFR 3001.111(b). Notices of intervention in this case are to be filed on or before August 23, 2011. A notice of intervention shall be filed using the Internet (Filing Online) at the Commission's Web site unless a waiver is obtained for hardcopy filing. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a).

Further procedures. By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5). A procedural schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate

issue. As required by the Commission rules, if any motions are filed, responses are due 7 days after any such motion is filed. *See* 39 CFR 3001.21.

It is ordered:

1. The Postal Service shall file the applicable administrative record regarding this appeal no later than August 10, 2011.

2. Any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this notice is due no later than August 10, 2011.

3. The procedural schedule listed below is hereby adopted.

4. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Emmett Rand Costich is designated officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to

represent the interests of the general public.

5. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this notice and order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove,
Secretary.

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

July 26, 2011	Filing of Appeal.
August 10, 2011	Deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record in this appeal.
August 10, 2011	Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading.
August 23, 2011	Deadline for notices to intervene (<i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.111(b)).
August 30, 2011	Deadline for Petitioners' Form 61 or initial brief in support of petition (<i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(a) and (b)).
September 19, 2011	Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service (<i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(c)).
October 4, 2011	Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs (<i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(d)).
October 11, 2011	Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument; the Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings (<i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.116).
November 16, 2011	Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule (<i>see</i> 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5)).

[FR Doc. 2011-19770 Filed 8-3-11; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. N2011-1; Order No. 778]

Postal Service Initiative on Retail Postal Locations

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recently-filed Postal Service request for an advisory opinion on an initiative involving examination of the continuation of service at postal retail locations. This document invites public comments on the request and addresses several related procedural steps.

DATES: *Notices of intervention are due:* August 19, 2011. *See* the Procedural Schedule in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for other dates of interest.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically by accessing the "Filing Online" link in the banner at the top of the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>) or by directly accessing the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/filing-online/login.aspx>. Commenters who cannot submit their views electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section as the source for case-related information for advice on alternatives to electronic filing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820 (case-related information) or DocketAdmins@prc.gov (electronic filing assistance).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 27, 2011, the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) filed a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) for an advisory opinion under 39 U.S.C. 3661 regarding use of a centrally directed Retail Access Optimization (RAO) initiative for examining the continuation of service at approximately 3,650 postal retail locations.¹

Jurisdiction. The Postal Service contends that in its present form, the RAO initiative "could be at least 'substantially nationwide,' within the meaning of 39 U.S.C. 3661(b)." *Id.* at 2. The Postal Service states that if it determines any facilities should be closed, postal patrons would have to obtain services at a different postal facility or alternate access channel. *Id.* The Postal Service asks the Commission to consider whether it has jurisdiction to offer an advisory opinion on the RAO initiative, and if so, to render it. *Id.*

The RAO initiative applies to postal retail facilities across the country, without limit to geography or population, and is driven by Headquarters. The Commission finds that because the Postal Service's RAO initiative appears to encompass a Headquarters' mandated, systemwide review of postal retail facilities, similar to the review of station and branch discontinuation in Docket No. N2009-1, a Commission advisory opinion pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3661 is appropriate.

Request. The Request is accompanied by testimony from one witness, James J. Boldt (USPS-T-1), and five library

references (two of which are non-public).²

Witness Boldt is identified as the National Manager, Customer Service Operations, in the Office of Delivery and Post Office Operations at Postal Service Headquarters. USPS-T-1 at i. Witness Boldt's office is described as having primary responsibility for developing policies and procedures relating to the day-to-day operations of post offices, opening or closing of those facilities, and improving customer experience. *Id.*

Witness Boldt's testimony describes the current state of the Postal Service's retail network, including alternative access channels and underlying trends. *Id.* at 2-10. The testimony also describes the RAO initiative as a systemwide approach to the decline in demand for retail services and the widespread availability of alternative access channels. *Id.* at 13-14. The testimony indicates that the Postal Service will evaluate postal offices with low workload, stations and branches with insufficient demand and available alternate access, and retail annexes with insufficient demand and available alternate access. *Id.* at 14-16.

The Postal Service intends to make use of the new "USPS Handbook PO-101" that reflects recent rules promulgated by the Postal Service concerning the methods to close or consolidate postal retail facilities.³ *Id.* at 17-18. Finally, the testimony explains how the Postal Service's new rules work

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in the Nature of Postal Services, July 27, 2011 at 1 (Notice).

² *See* Notice of United States Postal Service of Filing of Initial Library References and Application for Non-Public Treatment of Materials, July 27, 2011, identifying and describing the library references filed in support of the Postal Service's direct case.

³ *See* 39 CFR Part 241.