

agreement on an effective date. *Id.* Attachment 2 at 1. The Agreement, however, may be terminated by either party on no less than 30 days' written notice. *Id.* at 3. The Postal Service and Australia Post, the postal operator for Australia, are parties to the Agreement. The portions of the Agreement at issue in this docket cover inbound letter post in the form of Letters, Flats, Small Packets, Registered Mail, and Small Packets with Delivery Scanning. *Id.* at 9.²

Requirements under part 3010. The Postal Service states that the financial performance of the Australia Post Agreement is provided in the Excel file included with the filing. Notice at 1–2. It contends that improvements should enhance mail efficiency and other functions for letter post items under the Agreement. *Id.* at 4.

The Postal Service asserts that the instant Agreement should not cause unreasonable harm in the marketplace since it is unaware of any significant competition in this market. *Id.* at 4–5.

Under 39 CFR 3010.43, the Postal Service is required to submit a data collection plan. The Postal Service indicates that it intends to report information on this Agreement through its Annual Compliance Report. While indicating its willingness to provide information on mailflows within the annual compliance review process, the Postal Service proposes no special data collection plan for this Agreement. With respect to performance measurement, it requests that the Commission exempt this Agreement from separate reporting requirements under 39 CFR 3055.3 and establish a standing exemption to performance reporting requirements for all contracts added to the product Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators. *Id.* at 6, 10.

The Postal Service advances reasons why the Agreement is functionally equivalent to previously filed agreements.³ It asserts that the instant Agreement fits within the Mail

²Notice at 5–6. The Agreement also covers competitive products such as M–Bags, parcels, and Express Mail. See Docket No. CP2012–1, Notice of United States Postal Service of Filing Functionally Equivalent Inbound Competitive Multi-Service Agreement with a Foreign Postal Operator, October 17, 2011.

³*Id.* at 7–9. It cites the following orders: Order No. 549; Docket No. R2011–4, Order No. 700, Order Approving Rate Adjustment for HongKong Post—United States Postal Service Letter Post Bilateral Agreement Negotiated Service Agreement, March 18, 2011; Docket No. R2011–7, Order No. 871, Order Concerning an Additional Inbound Competitive Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement, September 23, 2011. See *id.* at 1 n.1.

Classification Schedule language for the Inbound Multi-Service Agreements with the Foreign Postal Operators 1 product. Additionally, it states that the Australian Post Agreement includes similar terms and conditions, *e.g.*, is with a foreign postal operator, conforms to a common description, and relates to rates for letter post tendered from the postal operator's territory. Notice at 8.

The Postal Service identifies a specific term, Article 22, which refers to the duration of the Agreement, that distinguishes the instant Agreement from the existing China Post Agreement (Docket No. R2010–6). This distinction is the duration that the Agreement will be in effect. *Id.* at 8–9. The Postal Service contends that the instant Agreement is nonetheless functionally equivalent to existing agreements. *Id.* at 9.

In its Notice, the Postal Service maintains that certain portions of the agreement, prices, and related financial information should remain under seal. *Id.* at 10; *id.* Attachment 1.

The Postal Service concludes that the Australian Post Agreement should be added as a functionally equivalent agreement under the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product. Notice at 10.

II. Notice of Filing

Interested persons may submit comments on whether the Postal Service's filing in the captioned docket is consistent with the policies of 39 U.S.C. 3622 and 39 CFR 3010.40. Under rule 3010.44(a)(5), comments on the Postal Service's filing would be due October 24, 2011, 10 days after the filing of the Postal Service's Notice. Recognizing that rates under the instant Agreement are scheduled to become effective January 1, 2012, the Commission will establish October 27, 2011 as the due date for comments. The public portions of these filings can be accessed via the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>).

The Commission appoints James F. Callow to serve as Public Representative in this docket.

III. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. R2012–2 to consider matters raised by the Postal Service's notice.

2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, James F. Callow is appointed to serve as officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

3. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than October 27, 2011.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2011–27814 Filed 10–26–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #12784 and #12785]

Vermont Disaster Number VT–00021

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Amendment 6.

SUMMARY: This is an amendment of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Vermont (FEMA–4022–DR), Dated 09/01/2011.

Incident: Tropical Storm Irene.

Incident Period: 08/27/2011 through 09/02/2011.

Effective Date: 10/18/2011.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 11/15/2011.

EIDL Loan Application Deadline Date: 06/01/2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the President's major disaster declaration for the State of Vermont, dated 09/01/2011 is hereby amended to extend the deadline for filing applications for physical damages as a result of this disaster to 11/15/2011.

All other information in the original declaration remains unchanged.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

James E. Rivera,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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BILLING CODE 8025–01–P