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 Executive Secretariat

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. R2016-1; Order No. 2819]

International Mail Contract

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing concerning a Type 2 rate adjustment and the filing of a related negotiated service agreement with Korea Post. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* November 23, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

On November 13, 2015, the Postal Service filed a notice, pursuant to 39 CFR 3010.40 *et seq.*, announcing a Type 2 rate adjustment to improve default rates established under the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Acts.¹ The Notice

concerns the inbound portion of a Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement with Korea Post (Agreement) that the Postal Service contends is functionally equivalent to the baseline agreement with China Post (China Post 2010 Agreement) that the Commission included within the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product in the market dominant product list of the Mail Classification Schedule.² Notice at 1–2.

II. Contents of Filing

The Postal Service's filing consists of the Notice, two attachments, and redacted and unredacted versions of an Excel file with supporting financial workpapers. Notice at 2. Attachment 1 is an application for non-public treatment of material filed under seal with the Commission. Attachment 2 is a redacted copy of the Agreement. *Id.*

The Postal Service states the intended effective date of the Agreement is January 1, 2016; asserts it is providing at least the 45 days advance notice required under 39 CFR 3010.41; and identifies the parties to the Agreement as the United States Postal Service and Korea Post, the postal operator for the Republic of Korea. *Id.* at 2–3.

The Postal Service states that the Agreement includes: Revised rates and terms for small packets with delivery scanning; improvement to labels; use of Postal Service barcodes to facilitate sortation; and sortation recommendations. *Id.* at 4.

Reporting requirements. 39 CFR 3010.43 requires the Postal Service to submit a detailed data collection plan. In lieu of a special data collection plan for the Agreement, the Postal Service proposes to report information on the Agreement through the Annual Compliance Report. *Id.* at 6. The Postal Service also invokes, with respect to service performance measurement reporting under 39 CFR 3055.3(a)(3), the standing exception the Commission allowed in Order No. 996 for all agreements filed in the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product grouping.³

Functionally Equivalent Agreement, November 13, 2015, at 1 (Notice).

² See Docket Nos. MC2010-35, R2010-5, and R2010-6, Order Adding Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 to the Market Dominant Product List and Approving Included Agreements, September 30, 2010 (Order No. 549).

³ *Id.*, citing Docket No. R2012-2, Order Concerning an Additional Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement, November 23, 2011, at 7 (Order No. 996).

Consistency with applicable statutory criteria. The Postal Service observes that Commission review of a negotiated service agreement addresses three statutory criteria under 39 U.S.C. 3622(c)(10), as identified in 39 CFR 3010.40, *i.e.*, whether the agreement: (1) Improves the Postal Service's net financial position or enhances the performance of operational functions; (2) will not cause unreasonable harm to the marketplace; and (3) will be available on public and reasonable terms to similarly situated mailers. *Id.* at 7. The Postal Service asserts that it addresses the first two criteria in its Notice and that the third is inapplicable, as there are no entities similarly situated to Korea Post in terms of its ability to tender broad-based small packet flows from Korea. *Id.*

Functional equivalence. The Postal Service addresses reasons why it considers the Agreement functionally equivalent to the China Post 2010 Agreement filed in Docket No. R2010-6.⁴ The Postal Service identifies differences between the Agreement and the baseline agreement, but asserts that these differences do not detract from the conclusion that the Agreement is functionally equivalent to the baseline agreement. *Id.*

III. Commission Action

The Commission, in conformance with rule 3010.44, establishes Docket No. R2016-1 to consider issues raised in the Notice. The Commission invites comments from interested persons on whether the Agreement is consistent with 39 U.S.C. 3622 and the requirements of 39 CFR part 3010. Comments are due no later than November 23, 2015. The public portions of this filing can be accessed via the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>). Information on how to obtain access to non-public material appears in 39 CFR part 3007.

The Commission appoints James F. Callow to represent the interests of the general public (Public Representative) in this docket.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. R2016-1 for consideration of matters raised by the Postal Service's Notice.

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

⁴ *Id.* at 8–9; see Order No. 549.

¹ Notice of United States Postal Service of Type 2 Rate Adjustment, and Notice of Filing

3. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than November 23, 2015.

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

By the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-29621 Filed 11-19-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings; Amended Notice

This is an amendment to the Sunshine Act meeting notice of the Postal Regulatory Commission published in the **Federal Register** of May 15, 2015 (80 FR 28015). The amendment is being made to update the agenda and contact person for the December 3, 2015, meeting.

TIMES AND DATES: December 3, 2015, at 11 a.m.

Portions Open to the Public

1. Report from the Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations.

2. Report from the Office of the General Counsel.

3. Report from the Office of Accountability and Compliance.

4. Commissioners Vote to designate new Vice-Chairman of the Commission pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 502(e).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

David A. Trissell, General Counsel, Postal Regulatory Commission, 901 New York Avenue NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268-0001, at 202-789-6820 (for agenda-related inquiries) and Stacy L. Ruble, Secretary of the Commission, at 202-789-6800 or stacy.ruble@prc.gov (for inquiries related to meeting location, changes in date or time of the meeting, access for handicapped or disabled persons, the audiocast, or similar matters). The Commission's Web site may also provide information on changes in the date or time of the meeting.

By direction of the Commission.

Stacy L. Ruble,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-29777 Filed 11-18-15; 4:15 pm]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

2016 Railroad Experience Rating Proclamations, Monthly Compensation Base and Other Determinations

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 8(c)(2) and section 12(r)(3) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2) and 45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3), respectively), the Board gives notice of the following:

1. The balance to the credit of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance (RUI) Account, as of June 30, 2015, is \$120,082,848.11;

2. The September 30, 2015, balance of any new loans to the RUI Account, including accrued interest, is zero;

3. The system compensation base is \$4,226,071,387.68 as of June 30, 2015;

4. The cumulative system unallocated charge balance is (\$393,458,771.03) as of June 30, 2015;

5. The pooled credit ratio for calendar year 2016 is zero;

6. The pooled charged ratio for calendar year 2016 is zero;

7. The surcharge rate for calendar year 2016 is 1.5 percent;

8. The monthly compensation base under section 1(i) of the Act is \$1,455 for months in calendar year 2016;

9. The amount described in sections 1(k) and 3 of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly compensation base" is \$3,637.50 for base year (calendar year) 2016;

10. The amount described in section 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act as "2.5 times the monthly compensation base" is \$3,637.50 with respect to disqualifications ending in calendar year 2016;

11. The amount described in section 2(c) of the Act as "an amount that bears the same ratio to \$775 as the monthly compensation base for that year as computed under section 1(i) of this Act bears to \$600" is \$1,879 for months in calendar year 2016;

12. The maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act is \$72 with respect to days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016.

DATES: The balance in notice (1) and the determinations made in notices (3) through (7) are based on data as of June 30, 2015. The balance in notice (2) is based on data as of September 30, 2015. The determinations made in notices (5) through (7) apply to the calculation, under section 8(a)(1)(C) of the Act, of employer contribution rates for 2016. The determinations made in notices (8) through (11) are effective January 1, 2016. The determination made in notice (12) is effective for registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marla L. Huddleston, Bureau of the Actuary, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092, telephone (312) 751-4779.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RRB is required by section 8(c)(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(1)) as amended by Public Law 100-647, to proclaim by October 15 of each year certain system-wide factors used in calculating experience-based employer contribution rates for the following year. The RRB is further required by section 8(c)(2) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2)) to publish the amounts so determined and proclaimed. The RRB is required by section 12(r)(3) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3)) to publish by December 11, 2015, the computation of the calendar year 2016 monthly compensation base (section 1(i) of the Act) and amounts described in sections 1(k), 2(c), 3 and 4(a-2)(i)(A) of the Act which are related to changes in the monthly compensation base. Also, the RRB is required to publish, by June 11, 2016, the maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act for days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2016.

Surcharge Rate

A surcharge is added in the calculation of each employer's contribution rate, subject to the applicable maximum rate, for a calendar year whenever the balance to the credit of the RUI Account on the preceding June 30 is less than the greater of \$100 million or the amount that bears the same ratio to \$100 million as the system compensation base for that June 30 bears to the system compensation base as of June 30, 1991. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$100 million (as indexed), but at least \$50 million (as indexed), the surcharge will be 1.5 percent. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$50 million (as indexed), but greater than zero, the surcharge will be 2.5 percent. The maximum surcharge of 3.5 percent applies if the RUI Account balance is less than zero.

The ratio of the June 30, 2015 system compensation base of \$4,226,071,387.68 to the June 30, 1991 system compensation base of \$2,763,287,237.04 is 1.52936377. Multiplying 1.52936377 by \$100 million yields \$152,936,377.00. Multiplying \$50 million by 1.52936377 produces \$76,468,188.50. The Account balance on June 30, 2015, was \$120,082,848.11. Accordingly, the surcharge rate for calendar year 2016 is 1.5 percent.