

Postal Rate Commission

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overall effects of introducing the proposed new service during the requested test period.

PART 3002—ORGANIZATION

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APPENDIX A TO PART 3002—POSTAL RATE COMMISSION, MISSION STATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 3603; 5 U.S.C. 552.

§ 3002.1 Purpose.

This part is published in compliance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1) and constitutes a general description of the Postal Rate Commission.

[36 FR 21994, Nov. 18, 1971]

§ 3002.2 Statutory functions.

(a) *Areas of jurisdiction.* The Commission has jurisdiction over changes in postal rates and fees under 39 U.S.C. 3622, and over mail classifications under 39 U.S.C. 3623. It issues recommended decisions to the Governors of the Postal Service on these matters. It also acts on postal patrons' appeals from Postal Service decisions to close or consolidate post offices under 39 U.S.C. 404(b). Further, the Commission investigates complaints of substantial national scope concerning postal rates, fees, mail classifications or services under 39 U.S.C. 3662. It also responds to requests of the Postal Service for advisory opinions on changes in the nature of postal services under 39 U.S.C. 3661. Because of the Commission's expertise, Congress occasionally asks it to undertake special studies on postal issues.

(b) *Public participation.* Interested persons may elect to participate in Commission rate and mail classification proceedings as formal intervenors (§ 3001.20), limited participators (§ 3001.20a), or commenters (§ 3001.20b). Interested parties who believe the Postal Service is charging rates which do not conform with the policies of the

Postal Reorganization Act, or who believe that they are not receiving postal service in accordance with the policies of title 39, may lodge a complaint with the Commission under section 3001.82. Persons served by post offices that the Postal Service decides to close or consolidate with other post offices may appeal such determinations under § 3001.111.

[64 FR 58337, Oct. 29, 2000]

§ 3002.3 The Commission and its offices.

(a) The Commissioners. The Postal Rate Commission is an independent establishment of the executive branch of the U.S. Government created by the Postal Reorganization Act (84 Stat. 719, title 39, U.S.C.). The Commission consists of five Commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, one of whom is designated as Chairman by the President.

(b) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman has the administrative responsibility for assigning the business of the Commission to the other Commissioners and to the offices and employees of the Commission. He/She has the administrative duty to preside at the meetings and sessions of the Commission and to represent the Commission in matters specified by statute or executive order or as the Commission directs. The Commission shall elect annually a member of the Commission to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Commission for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. In case of a vacancy in the Office of the Chairman of the Commission, or in the absence or inability of the Chairman to serve, the Vice-Chairman, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman, shall have the administrative responsibilities and duties of the Chairman during the period of vacancy, absence, or inability.

(c) The Commission's offices are located at 1333 H Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268. On these premises, the Commission maintains offices for Commissioners and the staff components described in §§ 3001.4, 3001.5, 3001.6 and 3001.7; a docket room where documents may be filed with the Commission pursuant to § 3001.9 and examined by interested persons; a public

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reading room where the Commission's public records are available for inspection and copying; a library containing legal and technical reference materials; and a hearing room where formal evidentiary proceedings are held on matters before the Commission. The Commission also maintains an electronic reading room accessible through the Internet, on its website at www.prc.gov.

[48 FR 13167, Mar. 30, 1983. Redesignated and amended at 64 FR 58337, Oct. 29, 1999]

§ 3002.4 Administrative Office.

(a) The incumbent head of the office is responsible for exercising two executive functions of the Commission and utilizes the title of either "Secretary" or "Chief Administrative Officer", as appropriate.

(b) As Secretary of the Commission, the incumbent head shall have custody of the Commission's seal, the minutes of all action taken by the Commission, its rules and regulations, its administrative and other orders, and records. All orders and other actions of the Commission shall be authenticated or signed by the Secretary or any such other person as may be authorized by the Commission.

(c) As Chief Administrative Officer the incumbent head is also responsible, subject to the policy guidelines of the Commission, for: Development, implementation, and administration of the Commission's financial management system and accounting activities including those relating to the budget and the payroll; development and administration in conjunction with the Personnel Officer of a personnel program designed to meet the needs of the Commission and its employees; development and administration, subject to the supervision of the Chairman, of a public information program appropriate to the agency mission; provision of facilities and operating and support services essential to the efficient and effective conduct of operations; acquisition, planning and assignment of office space; procurement and supply; serving as the contracting officer for the Commission and controlling the obligation of Commission funds, as authorized by the Commission.

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(d) The personnel management functions set out above are the immediate responsibility of the Personnel Officer, whose position is located in the Administrative Office.

(e) The Administrative Office is also responsible for the maintenance of the Commission's public information resources, including the docket room, the physical reading room, and the library on the premises of the Commission's offices, as well as the electronic reading room accessible on the Commission's website at www.prc.gov. The information available on the Commission's website is, in general, coextensive with that available from the Commission's docket room and physical reading room, and includes: Commission decisions, rules, orders and notices; testimony, pleadings and reference materials filed in Commission proceedings; and current information concerning Commission activities, employment opportunities, and a calendar of upcoming events.

[48 FR 13167, Mar. 30, 1983. Redesignated and amended at 64 FR 58337, Oct. 29, 1999]

§ 3002.5 Office of Rates, Analysis, and Planning.

(a) The Office of Rates, Analysis, and Planning is responsible for technical (as opposed to legal) analysis and the formulation of policy recommendations for the Commission.

(b) This office provides the analytic support to the Commission for reviewing the record of rate and classification requests, post office closings and other issues which come before the Commission. The functional areas of expertise within this office are:

(1) The economic analysis of the market for postal services including the alternative sources for such services and the users of the service;

(2) The analysis of the operational characteristics of the postal system and its interface with various segments of the economy; and,

(3) The analysis of the costs of operating the Postal Service and how such costs are influenced by the operational characteristics.