

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Consideration of Workshare
Discount Rate Design

Docket No. RM2009-3

NOTICE CLARIFYING PUBLIC FORUM PROCEDURES

(Issued August 4, 2009)

On July 10, 2009, the Commission issued Order No. 243 which scheduled a public forum to take place on August 11, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission's hearing room. The purpose of the forum is to discuss comments in Docket No. RM2009-3 that explored several issues raised by worksharing discount adjustments considered in Docket No. R2009-2 that have potentially broad policy implications.

The issues to be addressed in the public forum were described in Order No. 243. One broad area to be addressed is whether users of single-piece First-Class Mail are entitled to special protection under the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, and, if so, what form that protection should take. The other broad area to be addressed is how worksharing should be defined when applying the standards of section 3622(e), and what legal standard or economic policy should apply to the cost-reducing characteristics of a discounted service that fall outside of the definition of worksharing. Specific issues related to these two broad topics are described in some detail in Order No. 243, at pages 4-8.

The forum is envisioned as an informal, non-adversarial conference that will allow representatives of various interests and points of view to elaborate on the basis of their views, interact with those with contrasting views, and respond to questions from the Commission. Commissioners will not "preside" as they would in a formal hearing,

but can be expected to participate in the discussion. Prepared testimony will not be solicited, and panels will not be formed.

A Commission staff member will act as a discussion facilitator. The use of prepared exhibits, tables, or graphic aids will be welcomed where they clarify and strengthen the factual support for a participant's views. Statements at this informal forum will not be under oath and will be transcribed but not treated as formal evidence. To provide maximum benefits, the proceedings will be broadcast and electronically recorded as well.

Judith M. Grady
Acting Secretary