

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Post Office Structure Plan

Docket No. N2012-2

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 5

(Issued July 12, 2012)

During the July 11, 2012 hearing, Chairman Goldway requested that witness Day clarify certain information regarding the Postal Service's leasing policy. The Postal Service agreed to provide further clarification, but requested that the questions be in writing.

The Postal Service is requested to respond to the following questions to clarify the record on its request for an advisory opinion under 39 U.S.C. § 3661(b) regarding the Post Office Structure Plan (POStPlan).¹ Responses should be provided as soon as possible, but no later than July 16, 2012.

The Postal Service has indicated its intention to keep POStPlan offices open "unless the community has a strong preference for discontinuance...." USPS-T-1 at 15, lines 4-5. It is important that the Postal Service enter into and maintain leases that are based on fiscally responsible criteria. At the same time, if the Postal Service is too inflexible in negotiations, it may not be able to secure suitable space in towns where it has committed to residents that the post office will remain open.

¹ United States Postal Service Request for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in the Nature of Postal Services, May 25, 2012 (Request).

1. What is the Postal Service's policy with regard to lease negotiations?
2. How will it balance these factors when it negotiates renewal of leases?
3. If leases cannot be renegotiated in the currently operating facility, what are the Postal Service's plans to avoid suspensions and maintain service in communities where it has committed to ongoing service?

Nanci E. Langley
Presiding Officer