

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

In the Matter of:

Francitas Post Office
Francitas, Texas 77961

Docket No. A2013-4

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE RESPONSE TO PETITIONER LETTER
RECEIVED ON APRIL 5, 2013
(April 9, 2013)**

On April 5, 2013, the Postal Regulatory Commission docketed correspondence from Petitioner Jalufka regarding the status of the Francitas, Texas Post Office. In that correspondence, Petitioner Jalufka stated that the Francitas, Texas Post Office closed on March 26, 2013 and that members of the Francitas community have to drive to the La Ward, Texas Post Office in order to retrieve their mail. Although the Postal Service withdrew the Final Determination to close the Francitas, Texas Post Office and requested that this appeal be dismissed, the Postal Service believes that the Commission would benefit from additional information about the particular circumstances described in Petitioner Jalufka's letter.

The Francitas, Texas Post Office is subject to an emergency suspension for lack of qualified personnel to operate the office. On March 26, 2013 the Postal Service informed customers that the Francitas, Texas Post Office was subject to an emergency suspension by two means. First, the Postal Service displayed a notice at the Francitas, Texas Post Office. Second, the Postal Service mailed a letter to Francitas, Texas Post Office customers. This letter informed customers that, "[d]ue to a lack of qualified personnel to operate the office, it was necessary to suspend services." Copies of these

communications are attached. In sum, the Postal Service has not permanently closed the Francitas Post Office. Instead, it has suspended operations.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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April 9, 2013



Docket: 1363966 - 77961
Item Nbr: 3
Page Nbr: 1

03/26/2013

Dear Postal Customer:

The FRANCITAS Postmaster was promoted on 07/19/2008. Employees from the La Ward and Ganado Post offices have provided services since that time. Due to lack of qualified personnel to operate the office, it was necessary to suspend services at the FRANCITAS Post Office at the close of business on 03/26/2013. This change is tentative and will not lead to a formal proposal unless we conclude that it will provide a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services.

While the Francitas office is suspended, please contact the La Ward postmaster for advice regarding location of the Francitas Post Office P.O. Box receptacles. Current FRANCITAS Post Office Box customers will continue to use FRANCITAS TX 77961 as their last line of delivery.

Retail services are available at the La Ward Post Office, located 7.9 miles away. Window service hours at La Ward Post Office are from 7:45 AM to 3:45 PM, Monday through Friday, and closed on Saturday. La Ward Post Office box lobby hours are 24 hours a day. Customers who wish to obtain new Post Office box service may do so at the La Ward Post Office. If applicable, Francitas Post Office Box refunds can be received at the La Ward PO.

I realize with change there is always concern. No final decision to permanently discontinue the Post Office has been made. In the interim, we are confident that La Ward Post Office will continue to provide FRANCITAS customers with effective and regular postal services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Reyes III".

DANIEL REYES III
Manager, Post Office Operations

Enclosure: Official Record

cc:
Postmaster/ OIC FRANCITAS PO
Postmaster / La Ward
Post Office Review Coordinator



**UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE**

NOTICE



Francitas Post Office Suspended 03/26/2013

The Box Section Mail will be available at:

**Alternate Location: La Ward Post Office
13059 ST HWY 172
La Ward, TX 77970**

Ganado Postmaster (361) 771-2536