

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

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW, 2018

Docket No. ACR2018

**NOTICE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REGARDING FILING
OF POST OFFICE SUSPENSION INFORMATION UPDATE FOR FY19 QUARTER 4**
(November 12, 2019)

On pages 201-202 of the Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Compliance Determination (issued on April 12, 2019), the Commission directed the Postal Service to continue filing quarterly updates on post office suspensions within 40 days of the end of each quarter in FY 2019. Accordingly, the Postal Service has electronically attached the requested update for FY 2019 Quarter 4 to this Notice, as Excel file "FY19_Q4_Suspensions_Update.xls."

The Postal Service originally reported 655 suspended post offices at the start of FY 2017. An additional seven (7) suspended offices were entered into the Postal Service's tracking system after FY 2017 began, bringing the total number of suspended offices to 662. The additional seven (7) offices were identified in the FY 2017 Quarter 4 report filed with the Commission on November 8, 2017, in the ACR2016 docket. Since then, the Postal Service has regularly updated the status of these suspended post offices.

During FY 2019 Quarter 1, there were no offices published in the *Postal Bulletin*, and three (3) additional, previously suspended post offices were re-opened, bringing the remaining suspended total to 247.

During FY 2019 Quarter 2, there were no offices published in the *Postal Bulletin*, and five (5) additional, previously suspended post offices were re-opened, bringing the remaining suspended total to 242.

During FY 2019 Quarter 3, there were no offices published in the *Postal Bulletin*, and three (3) additional, previously suspended post offices were re-opened, bringing the remaining suspended total to 239.

During FY 2019 Quarter 4, there were four (4) offices published in the *Postal Bulletin*, and seven (7) additional, previously suspended post offices were re-opened, bringing the remaining suspended total to 228.

The Postal Service has now reduced the number of suspended offices from the original 662 identified by 434, which represents a 65.6 percent reduction of the original 662 suspensions. The Postal Service is currently reviewing each of the remaining 228 suspended post offices to determine the proper course of action to be taken.

Figures through the end of FY 2019 Quarter 4 are furnished in the attachment.

Finally, as noted by the Commission on page 200 of its 2018 Annual Compliance Determination, the Postal Service also filed data on the total number of all suspended post offices in USPS–FY18–33; these numbers reported included 94 other post offices suspended in FY 2017 and FY 2018 (in addition to the 662 post offices suspended at the end of FY 2016). See January 28, 2019 Postal Service Responses to CHIR No. 3, question 9.b. In accordance with this CHIR response and the Annual Compliance

Determination, the Postal Service is providing an updated plan for resolving all remaining suspended post offices, including the 94 more recently suspended post offices, as part of this FY 2019, Quarter 4 post office suspension report.¹

Specifically, field operational executives have launched a renewed emphasis on suspension resolution in Quarter 4 to expedite the due diligence needed to address post offices that remain in suspension status. Delivery has recently on-boarded a new dedicated staff member in the office of Field Performance, which will be managing the Postal Service's effort to meet the Commission's September 2020 completion date for resolution of all 662 original suspension offices. And Postal Service management has provided additional data and instructions to the field management teams as to the status of the various suspended post offices and how to complete their tasks to resolve these suspensions.

¹ As an initial matter, the Postal Service can now provide updated figures for these additional suspensions – *i.e.*, those suspensions other than the original 662 suspensions dating back to before FY 2017. Within FY 2017, there were 84 suspensions, of which 51 offices were reopened, leaving a balance of 33. Within FY 2018, there were 78 suspensions, of which 32 offices were reopened, leaving a balance of 46. And within FY 2019, there were 135 suspensions, of which 41 were reopened, leaving a balance of 94. Adding the remaining suspensions occurring within these three fiscal years creates a total of 173 remaining suspensions. Again, this 173 three-year total is separate from the 662 original suspensions from prior to FY 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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November 12, 2019