NOTICE AND ORDER ESTABLISHING SECTION 407 PROCEEDING

(Issued March 9, 2020)

I. INTRODUCTION

The 27th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress will take place August 10-28, 2020, in Côte d'Ivoire. Before the United States concludes any treaty, convention, or amendment that establishes a Market Dominant rate or classification, the Secretary of State must request that the Commission provide views on whether such treaties, conventions, or amendments are consistent with the standards and criteria for modern rate regulation established by the Commission under 39 U.S.C. 3622. 39 U.S.C. 407(c). On March 6, 2020, the Department of State requested the Commission’s views on relevant proposals that will be presented at the 27th UPU Congress.¹

¹ Letter from Nerissa J. Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, March 6, 2020 (State’s Request).
Pursuant to section 407(c)(1) and 39 CFR part 3017, the Commission establishes Docket No. IM2020-1 for the purpose of developing its views on whether certain proposals for the upcoming UPU Congress are consistent with the standards and criteria for modern rate regulation established by the Commission under 39 U.S.C. 3622.

II. INITIAL COMMISSION ACTION

Establishment of docket. Part 3017 of title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations codifies procedures related to the development of the Commission's section 407 views. Pursuant to rule 3017.3(a), the Commission establishes this docket to "solicit comments on the general principles that should guide the Commission's development of views on relevant proposals, in a general way, and on specific relevant proposals[.]" 39 CFR 3017.3(a).

Comments. Rule 3017.4(a) provides that the Commission "shall establish a deadline for comments upon establishment of the docket that is consistent with timely submission of the Commission's views to the Secretary of State." 39 CFR 3017.4(a). The 27th Universal Postal Union Congress will take place August 10-28, 2020, in Côte d'Ivoire. The Department of State requests that the Commission submit its views by July 10, 2020. State's Request at 1. To ensure timely submission of the Commission's views to the Department of State, the Commission establishes June 12, 2020, as the deadline for submission of comments on the principles that should guide development
of its views, as well as those on the consistency of proposals subject to subchapter I of chapter 36 with the standards and criteria of 39 U.S.C. 3622. Comments are to be submitted in the above captioned docket via the Commission’s website at http://www.prc.gov unless a request for waiver is approved. For assistance with filing, contact the Commission’s docket section at 202-789-6846 or docket@prc.gov.

Public Representative. Section 505 of title 39 requires the designation of an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in all public proceedings. The Commission designates Kenneth E. Richardson as Public Representative in this proceeding.

Availability of documents. Pursuant to rule 3017.3(b), the Commission will post relevant proposals and other materials related to the development of Commission views in this docket.

Federal Register publication. Rule 3017.3(c) requires publication in the Federal Register of the notice establishing a docket authorized under part 3017. 39 CFR 3017.3(c). Pursuant to this rule, the Commission directs the Secretary of the Commission to arrange for prompt publication of this Order in the Federal Register.

III. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. IM2020-1 for purposes related to the development of section 407(c)(1) views and invites public comments related to this effort, as described in the body of this Order.

2. Comments are due no later than June 12, 2020.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Kenneth E. Richardson is appointed to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.
4. The Secretary is directed to post documents in this docket when the Commission determines such documents are relevant.

5. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Order in the Federal Register.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker
Secretary