

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

Before Commissioners:

Robert G. Taub, Chairman;
Michael Kubayanda, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton;
Ann C. Fisher; and
Ashley E. Poling

Bellville Post Office
Bellville, GA

Docket No. A2020-1

NOTICE AND ORDER ACCEPTING APPEAL
AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued August 3, 2020)

I. INTRODUCTION

On July 31, 2020, the City of Bellville, Georgia (Petitioner) appealed the Postal Service's determination to close the Bellville Post Office located in Bellville, Georgia, 30414.¹ Petitioner states that the Postal Service "has failed to adhere to the applicable laws and regulations governing the discontinuance of post offices, in particular the requirements of 39 C.F.R. § 241.3." Petition at 1.

¹ Petition for Review Received from the City of Bellville, GA Regarding the Bellville, GA Post Office, July 31, 2020 (Petition).

II. COMMISSION ACTION

In accordance with 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Commission establishes Docket No. A2020-1 for consideration of the Petitioner's appeal of the Postal Service's determination to close the Bellville Post Office.

The Commission has posted the Petition on its website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this proceeding will also be posted on the website under Docket No. A2020-1.

The Commission invites comments on the Postal Service's determination to close the Bellville Post Office. The procedural schedule, which includes deadlines for submitting comments, appears in section III below.

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 505, the Commission appoints Katrina R. Martinez to represent the interests of the general public (Public Representative) in this proceeding.

III. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3021.21, the Postal Service must file the administrative record pertaining to its determination to close the Bellville Post Office by no later than August 10, 2020. In addition, the due date for any other Postal Service pleading in response to the Petition is August 10, 2020. **If any motions are filed by the Postal Service, responses are due no later than 10 days after any such motion is filed.**²

Petitioners may supplement the Petition by filing PRC Form 61 (Participant Statement)³ and/or an initial brief with the Commission no later than August 31, 2020. See 39 C.F.R. §§ 3021.40-41.

² See *id.* § 3021.2(c). See 39 C.F.R. § 3010.108 for information on how filing deadlines are calculated.

³ A copy of this Order, PRC Form 61, and a letter from the Commission's Office of the Secretary and Administration will be sent to the Petitioner's representative, Dylan Edward Mulligan, at 406 North Caswell Street, P.O. Box 39, Glennville, GA 30427, contemporaneous with the posting of this Order. PRC Form 61 is also available on the Commission's website at https://www.prc.gov/sites/default/files/prc_form61.pdf.

Participant statements, initial comments, and initial briefs in support of the Petition from interested persons other than the Petitioner are due no later than August 31, 2020.⁴ Reply comments and reply briefs in support of the Postal Service's determination to close are due no later than September 14, 2020. See 39 C.F.R. § 3021.42. Responses to reply comments and reply briefs are due no later than September 24, 2020.⁵

Upon review of the administrative record filed by the Postal Service, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth in the Petition or that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of the issues raised in the Petition. The Commission may request that the Postal Service or other participants submit information or memoranda of law on any applicable issue to facilitate the Commission in conducting its review.

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5). The Commission establishes the following procedural schedule to accommodate this statutory deadline.

⁴ See 39 C.F.R. § 3021.14; *id.* § 3021.41. Participants other than the Petitioner may also use PRC Form 61, which is available on the Commission's website. *Id.* § 3021.14; see n.3 *supra*.

⁵ See *id.* § 3021.43. The scope of any responses filed must be limited to the issues discussed in the reply comments and reply briefs. *Id.*

July 31, 2020	Appeal filed
August 10, 2020	Deadline for Postal Service to file relevant administrative record (see 39 C.F.R. § 3021.21)
August 10, 2020	Deadline for Postal Service to file any responsive pleading
August 31, 2020	Deadline for Participants to file Participant Statement and/or initial briefs, and others in support of Petition to file Participant Statement, initial comments, and/or initial briefs (see <i>id.</i> § 3021.14; <i>id.</i> § 3021.41)
September 14, 2020	Deadline for Postal Service or others in support of Postal Service determination to close to file reply comments and/or reply briefs (see <i>id.</i> § 3021.42)
September 24, 2020	Deadline for Participants or others in support of Petition to file responses to reply comments and/or reply briefs (see <i>id.</i> § 3021.43)
November 30, 2020	Deadline for Commission to issue its decision (see 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5))

Pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3010.120(a), the Postal Service must electronically file its documents in this proceeding using the Commission's Filing Online system on the Commission's website. Other participants may submit filings electronically via the Filing Online system or by mail or other forms of physical delivery to the Commission's offices located at 901 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268.⁶ Instructions for how to create an account to electronically file documents online may be obtained on the Commission's website at <https://www.prc.gov/filingonline/userguide>, or by contacting the Commission's Docket section via email at dockets@prc.gov. The Docket section can also be reached by phone by calling the Commission's main line at

⁶ See 39 C.F.R. § 3021.11. The Commission reserves the right to redact personal information that may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

202-789-6800 and asking to be connected to the Docket section. Docket section hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

IV. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. A2020-1 for consideration of the Petition filed on July 31, 2020.
2. The Commission establishes the Procedural Schedule as set forth in the body of this Order.
3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 505, Katrina R. Martinez is designated as officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker
Secretary