

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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL AND PERIODICALS
SERVICE STANDARD CHANGES, 2021

DOCKET No. N2021-1

NOTICE OF PRE-FILING CONFERENCE
(March 23, 2021)

Pursuant to 39 C.F.R. § 3020.111(d), the Postal Service provides the Postal Regulatory Commission (“Commission”) this Notice of its intent to hold a pre-filing conference on April 6, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm EDT, regarding its proposed Service Standard Change for First-Class Mail and end-to-end Periodicals. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the conference will occur virtually, rather than at a physical location. Representatives of the Postal Service capable of discussing the policy rationale behind the Postal Service proposal will be made available at this time.

I. Proposed Service Standard Change

The Postal Service today announced its 10-Year Strategic Plan, entitled *Delivering For America: Our Vision and Ten-Year Plan to Achieve Financial Sustainability and Service Excellence*. As explained in that plan, the Postal Service proposes to amend 39 C.F.R. Part 121 to revise the current service standards for First-Class Mail and end-to-end Periodicals in a manner that would “generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis.” 39 U.S.C. § 3661(b). The most significant revisions would change the First-Class Mail service standards for inter-Sectional Center Facility (SCF) domestic pieces

transported between certain origin Processing & Distribution Center or Facility (P&DCF) and destination SCF pairs (OD Pairs) within the contiguous United States. The current overnight standard, which applies to certain intra-SCF presort First-Class Mail, will not change. The Postal Service is adjusting the service standards for First-Class Mail within the contiguous United States by narrowing the scope of the two-day and three-day standards and applying four-day and five-day standards to certain mail traveling longer distances between origin and destination.

Specifically, the Postal Service proposes to apply a two-day service standard to intra-SCF single piece domestic First-Class Mail where the SCF is also the origin P&DCF or the combined drive time between the origin P&DCF, destination Area Distribution Center (ADC), and destination SCF is three hours or less. A two-day service standard is also applied to inter-SCF domestic First-Class Mail if the combined drive time between the origin P&DCF, destination Area Distribution Center (ADC), and destination SCF is three hours or less. For Intra-SCF and inter-SCF First-Class Mail within the 48 contiguous states where the combined drive time between the origin P&DCF, destination ADC, and destination SCF is more than three hours, but does not exceed 20 hours, the Postal Service proposes a three-day service standard. The Postal Service proposes a four-day service standard for inter-SCF First-Class Mail within the 48 contiguous states where the combined drive time between origin P&DCF, destination ADC, and destination SCF is more than 20 hours but does not exceed 41 hours. Where the drive time within the 48 contiguous states between

origin P&DCF, destination ADC, and destination SCF exceeds 41 hours, a five-day service standard is proposed.

In addition, unless a one- or two-day service standard applies, the proposed changes would increase service standards within the non-contiguous states and certain territories by one day for certain First-Class Mail. A four-day service standard would apply to First-Class Mail originating in the contiguous 48 states destined to the city of Anchorage, Alaska, the 968 3-digit ZIP Code area in Hawaii, or the 006, 007, or 009 3-digit ZIP Code areas in Puerto Rico. A four-day service standard would also apply to First-Class Mail where the origin is in the 006, 007, or 009 3-digit ZIP Code areas in Puerto Rico and the destination is in the contiguous 48 states. Likewise, a four-day service standard would apply to First-Class Mail where the origin is in Hawaii and the destination is in Guam, or vice versa; where the origin is in Hawaii and the destination is in American Samoa, or vice versa; and where both origin and destination are within Alaska. All other First-Class Mail to non-contiguous United States destinations will be subject to a five-day service standard.

Certain end-to-end Periodicals would also be affected by the changes to First-Class Mail service standards. Under the new standard, a three-to-six-day service standard would be applied to Periodicals merged with First-Class Mail pieces for surface transportation, with the standard specifically equaling the sum of one day plus the applicable First-Class Mail service standard.

II. Conclusion

The *Delivering for America* plan discusses the rationale for these service standard changes, as well as its impact on First-Class Mail and Periodicals. The Postal Service plans to hold the above-mentioned virtual Pre-filing Conference regarding its proposed Service Standard Change on April 6, 2021 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm EDT, in order to provide an opportunity to educate the public on its plans, and for interested persons to give feedback to the Postal Service that it can use to modify or refine its proposal before it is filed at the Commission. Information and instructions regarding how to participate in the virtual Pre-filing Conference may be found at <https://about.usps.com/what/strategic-plans/delivering-for-america/#conference>. Therefore, in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 3020.111(d), the Postal Service provides the Commission its Notice of Pre-filing Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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