

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

Before Commissioners:

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

Special Study on Issues Related to
Flats Operations

Docket No. SS2022-1

NOTICE INITIATING PROCEEDING
FOR FLATS OPERATIONS STUDY

(Issued July 14, 2022)

Pursuant to the Postal Service Reform Act (PSRA) of April 6, 2022, the Commission, in consultation with the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service, is required to conduct a study concerning Flats Operations (Flats Study).¹ Specifically, the Commission shall conduct the Flats Study to “comprehensively identify the causes of inefficiencies in the collection, sorting, transportation, and delivery of Flats.” PSRA, Section 206(a)(1)(A). In addition, the Flats Study should allow the Commission to “quantify the effects of the volume trends, investments decisions, excess capacity, and operational inefficiencies of the Postal Service on the direct and indirect

¹ Postal Service Reform Act, Pub. L. 117-108, 136 Stat. 1127 (2022), Section 206(a)(1), April 6, 2022, available at <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ108/PLAW-117publ108.pdf>. Flats are Market Dominant mail products that meet the physical standards described in the Domestic Mail Manual for Flats mail for any class of mail. PSRA, Section 206(a)(4).

costs of the Postal Service that are attributable to Flats.” PSRA, Section 206(a)(1)(B). A report on the findings of the Flats Study is due “[n]ot later than one year after the date of the enactment of [the PSRA].” PSRA, Section 206(a)(3).

The PSRA requires that the Postal Service, upon the Commission’s request, consult with the Commission and provide access of its personnel to Postal Service facilities as well as the information and records necessary to conduct the Flats Study. PSRA, Section 206(a)(2)(A)(B). Accordingly, the Commission initiates this docket to facilitate the receipt of all data and information from the Postal Service that the Commission will find necessary for the purposes of carrying out the Flats Study and production of the report by the established deadline. Should any of the requested information require non-public treatment, the Postal Service should follow the procedures outlined in 39 C.F.R. part 3011.

Erica A. Barker
Secretary