

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

Hacker Valley Post Office  
Hacker Valley, WV 26222  
(Retha Casto, Petitioner)

Docket No. A2009-1

COMMISSION INFORMATION REQUEST NO.1

(Issued July 31, 2009)

The Postal Service is requested to provide written responses to the following questions. To assist in the completion of the record, the answers are to be provided as soon as possible, but, in no event, later than August 14, 2009.

1. In its Motion to Dismiss, the Postal Service states "...the lessor of the property housing the Hacker Valley Post Office declined to renew the lease for the Postal Service..."<sup>1</sup> When was the Postal Service first informed that this lease would not be renewed?
2. What efforts has the Postal Service made to locate an alternative facility or site for the Hacker Valley post office?
3. How much effort does the Postal Service plan to expend to find an alternative facility or site and how much time will this take?

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<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service Motion to Dismiss Proceeding, July 15, 2009, at 2 (Motion to Dismiss).

4. The Commission received comments from an individual who attended the Hacker Valley post office suspension meeting on June 8, 2009 at the Hacker Valley Senior Citizen Center. The comments discuss some of the statements made by a Postal Service employee at the suspension meeting. These statements imply that the Postal Service does not expect to establish a replacement Hacker Valley facility as a result of existing financial situation.<sup>2</sup>
  - a. If incorrect, what did the employee say?
  - b. Please verify what plans exist for establishing a replacement facility.
  
5. Under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(1), the Postal Service must provide adequate notice to persons served by a post office of its intention to close or consolidate such post office at least 60 days prior to the proposed close date.
  - a. Has the Postal Service made a final decision on whether or not to close the Hacker Valley post office?
  - b. If not, when can customers served by the Hacker Valley post office expect such a decision, and how will they be informed of this decision?
  - c. Will the Postal Service obtain community input prior to making such a decision? When and how will it do that?
  
6. Over the last five years, how many post offices have been suspended due to the expiration of a lease? Please identify each such office and its suspension date.

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<sup>2</sup> The commenter writes, "We were told the US Postal Service is 'loosing \$6,000,000 a day' and Hacker Valley post office is loosing tens if thousands of dollars every year. We were told services provided by the post office can be provided by the mail carriers." Submitted July 22, 2009.

7. How many of the post offices suspended due to the expiration of a lease were subsequently closed? Please provide the date of suspension and the subsequent date of closure for each such post office.
8. How many of the post offices suspended due to the expiration of a lease were subsequently reopened? Please provide the date of suspension and the subsequent date that such post office was reopened.
9. How many of the post offices suspended due to the expiration of a lease are currently pending closure? Please provide the date of suspension and proposed closure date for each such post office.
10. What factors are considered by the Postal Service in deciding whether to reopen a suspended post office?
11. What factors are considered by the Postal Service in deciding whether to close a suspended post office?
12. Is there a time frame within which the Postal Service typically acts to decide upon whether to continue a suspension, close the post office, or reopen the post office? After what time period would it be reasonable for citizens in the community to presume that a suspended post office would not be likely to reopen (*i.e.*, that it can be considered constructively closed)?

13. What administrative procedures or remedies are available for citizens in a community where a post office is suspended to seek action from the Postal Service?

By the Commission.

Judith M. Grady  
Acting Secretary