

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

In the Matter of:)
Post Office at)
Hacker Valley, West Virginia 26222-9998) Docket No. A2009-1
(Retha Hinkle Casto, Petitioner))

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO COMMISSION INFORMATION REQUEST No. 3
(October 26, 2009)

Commission Information Request No. 3 (CIR-3), issued October 2, 2009, posed three questions about an ongoing discontinuance study for the Hacker Valley Post Office. More specifically, CIR-3 points to various sections of Handbook PO-101 describing steps in a Post Office discontinuance and inquires whether respective steps have been completed (questions 1 and 2), and whether a “timetable has been established” for “carrying out” a study, and if so, when it must be “submitted.”

This Response is much later than planned. It was queued for filing on October 19, after client clearance, but as Ms. Taylor has graciously confirmed, that queue did not extend to the PRC website. Counsel apologizes for the delay.

Each question is stated verbatim followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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- 1) Section 221 of Handbook PO-101 lists nine tasks to be completed in preparing for the investigation. These tasks include obtaining a map showing the locations of other nearby offices, obtaining a list of customers' addresses, consulting city officials for information on growth trends in the community, and more. Of the entire list of tasks provided in section 221, which tasks have been completed?

RESPONSE:

No such tasks have been completed, although counsel is assured that a study has commenced.

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- 2) Section 222 of Handbook PO-101 lists six tasks to be completed when conducting an onsite investigation. These tasks include photographing the post office, explaining the post office discontinuance regulations to the postmaster, meeting with civic leaders to inquire into community interest, and more. Of the entire list of tasks provided in section 222, which tasks have been completed?

RESPONSE:

Please see the response to question 1.

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- 3) Has a timetable been established for carrying out the discontinuance study and submitting a recommendation to management? If so, when must the recommendation be submitted?

RESPONSE:

No. A discontinuance coordinator position is usually an ad hoc assignment; as such, District management is responsible for identifying the coordinator and providing that person the resources necessary to the conduct of a discontinuance study. As demonstrated by administrative records previously supplied to the Commission, a study often takes nine or more months to complete.