

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

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;  
Tony L. Hammond, Vice Chairman;  
Mark Acton;  
Dan G. Blair; and  
Nanci E. Langley

Competitive Product Prices  
Global Expedited Package Services 2 (CP2009-50)  
Negotiated Service Agreement

Docket No. CP2010-66

ORDER APPROVING ADDITIONAL  
GLOBAL EXPEDITED PACKAGE SERVICES 2  
NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT

(Issued July 26, 2010)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Postal Service proposes to add a specific Global Expedited Package Services contract to the Global Expedited Package Services 2 (GEPS 2) product established in Docket No. CP2009-50. For the reasons discussed below, the Commission approves the proposed contract.

## II. BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, the Postal Service filed a notice announcing that it has entered into an additional GEPS 2 contract.<sup>1</sup> The Postal Service believes the instant contract is functionally equivalent to previously submitted GEPS 2 contracts, and is supported by Governors' Decision No. 08-7, attached to the Notice and originally filed in Docket No. CP2008-4. *Id.* at 1, Attachment 3. The Notice also explains that Order No. 86, which established GEPS 1 as a product, also authorized functionally equivalent agreements to be included within the product, provided that they meet the requirements of 39 U.S.C. 3633. *Id.* at 1. In Order No. 290, the Commission approved the GEPS 2 product.<sup>2</sup>

The Postal Service filed the instant contract pursuant to 39 CFR 3015.5. The term of the contract is one year from the date the Postal Service notifies the customer that all necessary regulatory approvals have been received. Notice at 2.

In support of its Notice, the Postal Service filed four attachments as follows:

- Attachment 1—a redacted copy of the contract;
- Attachment 2—a certified statement required by 39 CFR 3015.5(c)(2);
- Attachment 3—a redacted copy of Governors' Decision No. 08-07, which establishes prices and classifications for GEPS contracts, a description of applicable GEPS contracts, formulas for prices, an analysis and certification of the Governors' vote; and
- Attachment 4—an application for non-public treatment of materials to maintain redacted portions of the contract and supporting documents under seal.

The Notice advances reasons why the instant GEPS 2 contract fits within the Mail Classification Schedule language for GEPS 2. The Postal Service identifies customer-specific information, general contract terms and other differences that distinguish the

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of United States Postal Service Filing of Functionally Equivalent Global Expedited Package Services 2 Negotiated Service Agreement and Application for Non-Public Treatment of Materials Filed Under Seal, July 13, 2010 (Notice).

<sup>2</sup> Docket No. CP2009-50, Order Granting Clarification and Adding Global Expedited Package Services 2 to the Competitive Product List, August 28, 2009 (Order No. 290).

instant contract from the baseline GEPS 2 agreement, all of which are highlighted in the Notice. *Id.* at 3-6.

The Postal Service contends that the instant contract is functionally equivalent to previously filed GEPS 2 contracts and is substantially similar to that in Docket No. CP2009-50 in terms of the product being offered, the market in which it is offered, and its cost characteristics. *Id.* at 3. *See also id.* at 6 (“[T]he relevant cost and market characteristics are similar, if not the same, for this contract and the baseline GEPS 2 contract.”).

The Postal Service also contends that its filings demonstrate that this new GEPS 2 contract complies with the requirements of 39 U.S.C. 3633. It requests that the contract be included within the GEPS 2 product. *Id.* at 6.

In Order No. 488, the Commission gave notice of the docket, appointed a Public Representative, and provided the public with an opportunity to comment.<sup>3</sup>

### III. COMMENTS

Comments were filed by the Public Representative.<sup>4</sup> No other interested person submitted comments. The Public Representative states that each applicable element of 39 U.S.C. 3633(a) appears to be met by this additional GEPS 2 contract. *Id.* at 1. He also affirms that the Postal Service’s filing complies with applicable Commission rules. *Id.*

The Public Representative observes that the instant contract has incidental differences from prior GEPS 2 contracts because of negotiation with individual mailers. He relates that the modifications to the instant contract are not significant enough to alter its functional equivalence with prior GEPS 2 contracts. *Id.* at 2. The Public

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<sup>3</sup> Notice and Order Concerning Filing of Additional Global Expedited Package Services 2 Negotiated Service Agreement, July 14, 2010 (Order No. 488).

<sup>4</sup> Public Representative Comments in Response to United States Postal Service Filing of An Additional Global Expedited Package Services 2 Negotiated Service Agreement, July 22, 2010 (Public Representative Comments).

Representative states that his review of the materials under seal indicates that the instant contract complies with the pricing formula established in Governors' Decision No. 08-7, is functionally equivalent to the other contracts within the GEPS 2 (CP2009-50) classification, and is appropriately established as a competitive product. *Id.* at 3.

The Public Representative states that the contract appears to comply with 39 U.S.C. 3633(a), should not lead to the subsidization of competitive products by market dominant products, should cover its attributable costs, and should have a positive net contribution to institutional costs. *Id.*

He concludes that the instant contract's terms are favorable to the Postal Service and the general public. *Id.*

#### IV. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Postal Service proposes to add an additional contract under the GEPS 2 product that was created in Docket No. CP2009-50.

First, the Commission reviews the contract to ensure that it is substantially equivalent to the pre-existing contracts classified as part of the GEPS 2 product and thus belongs as part of that product. Second, the Commission must ensure that the contract at issue in this proceeding satisfies the requirements of rules 3015.5 and 3015.7, and 39 U.S.C. 3633.

*Functional equivalence.* The Postal Service states that the instant contract differs from the contract in Docket No. CP2009-50 in two ways: (1) customer-specific information, *e.g.*, customer's name, address, representative, signatory and provisions clarifying tender locations, minimum revenue and/or volume commitment and related penalties; and (2) revisions in general terms which address treatment of confidential information, reference updates, and availability of pickup service. Notice at 3-5. There are also other modifications which the Postal Service characterizes as minor and include reference to mail exclusions, website changes, optional use of electronic data, deletion of liquidated damages provisions and editing of provisions for clarity. *Id.* at 5-6.

The instant contract appears to be similar to that filed in Docket No. CP2009-50. It differs in some minor respects relative to customer-specific information and revisions that add negotiated terms or clarify specific provisions. These differences notwithstanding, the Commission concludes that the instant contract may be included in the GEPS 2 product.

*Cost considerations.* The Commission reviews competitive products to ensure that they meet the applicable requirements of rules 3015.5 and 3015.7, and 39 U.S.C. 3633. The Commission has reviewed the financial analysis provided under seal that accompanies the contract as well as the comments filed in this proceeding.

Based on the information provided, the Commission finds that the contract submitted should cover its attributable costs (39 U.S.C. 3633(a)(2)), should not lead to the subsidization of competitive products by market dominant products (39 U.S.C. 3633(a)(1)), and should have a positive effect on competitive products' contribution to institutional costs (39 U.S.C. 3633(a)(3)). Thus, a preliminary review of the proposed contract indicates that it comports with the provisions applicable to rates for competitive products.

*Other considerations.* The instant contract states that the Postal Service will notify the mailer of its effective date within 30 days after receiving all necessary regulatory approvals and will remain in effect for one year from the effective date. The Postal Service shall notify the Commission of the effective date of the contract. If the contract terminates earlier than scheduled, the Postal Service shall inform the Commission prior to the new termination date.

In addition, within 30 days of the expiration of the contract, the Postal Service shall file cost, volumes and revenues disaggregated by weight and country group associated with the contract, including any penalties paid.

In conclusion, the Commission finds that the contract submitted in Docket No. CP2010-66 is appropriately included within the GEPS 2 product.

V. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

*It is Ordered:*

1. The contract filed in Docket No. CP2010-66 is included within the product Global Expedited Package Services 2 (CP2009-50).
2. The Postal Service shall notify the Commission of the effective date of the contract and update the Commission if the termination date changes as discussed in this Order.
3. Within 30 days of the expiration of the contract, the Postal Service shall file cost, volumes and revenues disaggregated by weight and country group associated with the contract, including any penalties paid.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary