

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Rate Adjustment Due to Extraordinary or  
Exceptional Circumstances

Docket No. R2010-4

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 6

(Issued August 26, 2010)

The Postal Service is requested to respond to the following questions to clarify the record on its proposed rate adjustments under 39 U.S.C. 3622(d)(1)(E) and 39 CFR 3010.60 of the Commission's rules for rate adjustments in exigent circumstances, filed July 6, 2010. To facilitate inclusion of the required material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service is to have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers. Responses should be provided no later than September 1, 2010.

1. At Tr. 3/316, witness Neri discusses mail processing operating procedures.
  - a. Please provide the Standard Operating Procedures for Periodicals Outside County Flats that receive automation discounts.
  - b. Please provide the Standard Operating Procedures for Standard Mail Flats that receive automation discounts.
  
2. At Tr. 3/316, witness Neri states "[w]e...monitor performance to ensure that the most efficient manner of processing is being utilized." For the most recent available quarter, please provide a copy of the analytical tools (*e.g.*, spreadsheets) the Postal Service uses to monitor this performance.

3. At Tr. 3/335, witness Neri states “[T]here is work being performed manually during the same processing windows that may reflect an opportunity of capacity that exists on equipment.”
  - a. For FY 2009, please quantify the workhours spent manually processing automation compatible mail during automation equipment operating windows.
  - b. What programs in the “Flats Strategy” detail how the Postal Service intends to minimize the manual workhours identified in part a.?
  
4. Please refer to Tr. 3/339-40. Witness Neri discusses the manual processing of automation flats bundles, indicating the possibility that such mail may erroneously be worked manually. Regarding the latter, he states “[i]f that’s identified, it’s addressed.” *Id.* at 340.
  - a. Describe the process for identifying manual processing of automation compatible bundles.
  - b. Provide any quantitative analyses supporting this process for the most recent available time period.
  
5. Please refer to the Exigent Request of the United States Postal Service, Attachment A, and the prices for outbound Single-Piece First-Class Mail International machinable and non-machinable letters (1125.6 Prices). As a result of Docket No. R2009-2, the current prices for one-ounce machinable and non-machinable letters are uniform at \$0.98 and \$1.18, respectively, for Country Price Groups 3 through 9. In the Exigent Request, the Postal Service proposes a price of \$1.06 for one-ounce machinable letters for Country Price Groups 3 through 5, and another price of \$1.02 for Country Price Groups 6 through 9. Distinct prices of \$1.27 and \$1.23 are also proposed for one-ounce non-machinable letters for Country Price Groups 3 through 5, and 6 through 9, respectively. Please explain the rationale for proposing distinct prices for one-ounce machinable and non-machinable letters for Country Price Groups 3 through 5, and 6 through 9.

6. For parcels weighing 1 through 8 ounces, please provide the rationale for proposing rates for Mixed NDC Standard Mail Irregular Parcels that exceed those proposed for First-Class Single Piece Parcels.
  
7. For parcels weighing 1 through 15 ounces, please provide the rationale for proposing 5-digit Irregular DNDC Parcels that exceed those proposed for 5-digit Machinable DNDC Parcels.

Ruth Y. Goldway  
Presiding Officer