

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

NOTICE OF PRICE ADJUSTMENT

DOCKET NO. R2011-2

INITIAL COMMENTS OF DAVID B. POPKIN

January 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

PRCR20112COMMENTS

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The Postal Service has filed a Notice of Market-Dominant Price Adjustment affecting all of the market-dominant classes. This adjustment will take effect at 12:01 AM on Sunday, April 17, 2011. For all practical purposes for 99-plus percent of postal customers, these adjustments will take effect on Monday April 18.

Monday April 18 will probably be one of the busiest days at the retail service windows WITHOUT THE EFFECT OF A RATE INCREASE. Monday April 18 will be the deadline for the filing of 2010 tax returns nationwide. The "normal" April 15 deadline was extended three days by the Internal Revenue Service since Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the District of Columbia, falls on Friday April 15.

Even though the basic one ounce letter rate will not be affected, the additional ounce rate and the Certified Mail fee will be changing. These rates will have a higher than normal use in the mailing of tax returns.

Combining tax day/night and rate increase day on the same day is a disaster waiting to happen. The Postal Service should delay its price adjustment by two to seven days to avoid the conflict.