

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

In the Matter of:

Pleasant Ridge Station
Little Rock, AR 72212
(Lou Schickel, Petitioner)

Docket No. A2011-8

COMMENTS OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

(April 11, 2011)

By means of Order No. 678 (February 23, 2011), the Postal Regulatory Commission docketed correspondence from a customer of Pleasant Ridge Station in Little Rock, Arkansas, assigning PRC Docket No. A2011-8 as an appeal pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 404(d).¹ The Postal Service renews the arguments set forth in its Notice of Filing² and its Comments in PRC Docket No. A2010-3³ (“A2010-3 Comments”).

This appeal concerns a station, and not a Post Office for purposes of 39 U.S.C. § 404(d). As described in the A2010-3 Comments (at 5-9), section 404(d) does not apply to retail locations such as stations which are subordinate to a Post Office. In the Postal Service’s view, Congress knowingly used “Post Office” in its technical sense thereby excluding stations and branches, as demonstrated in the legislative history, and because Congress had used “Post Office” in its technical sense for well over a century.

¹ Pleasant Ridge Station appears on the list of stations and branches identified for possible discontinuance in PRC Docket No. N2009-1. See USPS-N2009-1-4 - Current List of Stations/Branches Identified As Candidates for Discontinuance Study Under Station/Branch Optimization/Consolidation Initiative (Public Version) (January 29, 2010).

² Notice of United States Postal Service, PRC Docket No. A2011-8 (March 2, 2011).

³ Comments of United States Postal Service Regarding Jurisdiction Under (Current) Section 404(d), PRC Docket No. A2010-3 (April 19, 2010).

In addition to the Postal Service's position summarized above and addressed in more detail in PRC Docket Nos. A2010-3 and N2009-1, the procedural requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 404(d) do not apply here because the discontinuance of Pleasant Ridge Station does not qualify as a closure envisioned by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d). As recognized in PRC Docket No. A2010-3, the section 404(d) procedural requirements do not apply where postal customers do not lose access to postal services due to the location of alternate retail facilities in "close proximity" to the discontinued station. See Order No. 477, PRC Docket No. A2010-3 (June 22, 2010) at 7-8. In this case, affected customers will not lose access to postal services because they may obtain services from Westside Station, located within a half mile of Pleasant Ridge Station; Brady Finance Station, located within 2.5 miles of Pleasant Ridge Station; and the multiple expanded access options located within two miles of Pleasant Ridge Station. See Comments Exhibit 1 (printout from "Locate a Post Office" on USPS.Com⁴); Notice of United States Postal Service, PRC Docket No. A2011-8 (March 2, 2011) ("Notice") at 3, Exhibit 3. These options include stamp consignment sites at US Bank, Office Depot and Kroger, which are located within a mile of Pleasant Ridge Station. See Comments Exhibit 2 (printout from "Locate a Post Office" on USPS.Com).

Even assuming the section 404(d) requirements were applied in the context of the discontinuance of Pleasant Ridge Station, the Postal Service satisfied the salient provisions of section 404(d). On November 12, 2009, the

⁴ Comments Exhibits 1 and 2 use the term "Post Office" for retail units staffed by postal employees, thus including stations, branches and Post Offices.

Postal Service distributed questionnaires to customers notifying them of the possible discontinuance of Pleasant Ridge Station, and inviting comments on the potential change to the postal retail network. Notice, Exhibit 1 (Final Determination) at 1. The Postal Service also made these questionnaires available over the counter for retail customers who did not receive carrier delivery or Post Office Box service through Pleasant Ridge Station. *Id.* Through this notification, the Postal Service furnished customers well over 60 days' notice of the Postal Service's intention to consider discontinuance of the facility. The Postal Service received 1,382 customer responses to the questionnaires, thus confirming receipt of such notice and the extensive input customers provided. See *id.* Upon making the final decision to discontinue Pleasant Ridge Station, the Postal Service informed customers of the decision by letter dated February 4, 2011. See Participant's Statement Received from Lou Schickel Regarding the Pleasant Ridge Post Office (March 22, 2011).⁵

The Postal Service further considered all of the pertinent criteria of section 404(d), including the effect on postal services, the community, and employees, and the economic savings arising from the discontinuance. Notice, Exhibit 1 at 1-4. Customers notified the Postal Service of their concerns related to postal

⁵ Petitioner alleges that the Postal Service failed to notify customers of their right to appeal the discontinuance of Pleasant Ridge Station. Participant's Statement Received from Lou Schickel Regarding the Pleasant Ridge Post Office (March 22, 2011). But because the Commission accepted and considered Petitioner's appeal, Petitioner suffered no injury from the Postal Service's alleged failure to notify customers of their appeal rights. See Order No. 696, Order Affirming Postal Service Determination, PRC Docket No. A2011-4 (March 16, 2011) at 6 (finding that no injury arose from an alleged failure to provide notice of appeal rights where the petitioner filed a timely appeal); Order No. 673, Order Affirming Final Determination, PRC Docket No. A2011-1 (February 15, 2011) at 6 (same).

services, including the conditions of other nearby postal facilities and the possibility of a vacant facility; the community, including concerns about the impact on numerous neighborhood businesses; and employees, including concerns about employee layoffs. *Id.* As reflected in the final determination, the Postal Service considered these concerns during the decision-making process. See *id.* The questionnaire responses show that customers would continue to patronize local businesses (*id.* at 4), and there is no indication that the discontinuance of Pleasant Ridge Station will have a negative effect upon the local business community. *Id.* Affected postal employees will be reassigned to other postal facilities in full accordance with agreements between the Postal Service and employee organizations. *Id.* Finally, the Postal Service provided a breakdown of the costs that serve as a basis for its estimate of economic savings. *Id.*

In its responses to customer questionnaires, the Postal Service addressed customer concerns about obtaining services from a different postal retail location. Specifically, the Postal Service informed customers that, after the discontinuance of Pleasant Ridge Station, they would have a choice of carrier delivery or Post Office Box service. *Id.* at 2. It also explained that a change of address is necessary only for those customers choosing carrier delivery service, and that customers choosing Post Office Box service could retain their addresses. *Id.* In addition, the Postal Service identified the numerous retail service options available to customers, including the contract postal unit and three stations within five miles of Pleasant Ridge Station, and the ability to purchase stamps by

telephone, through the internet, or at stamp consignment locations listed at www.usps.com. *Id.*

For the reasons set forth above, and in the Notice of Filing in this docket and the Postal Service Comments in PRC Docket No. A2010-3, the appeal should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
By its attorneys:

Anthony F. Alverno
Chief Counsel, Global Business

Kenneth N. Hollies
James M. Mecone

475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-6525; Fax -6187
April 11, 2011

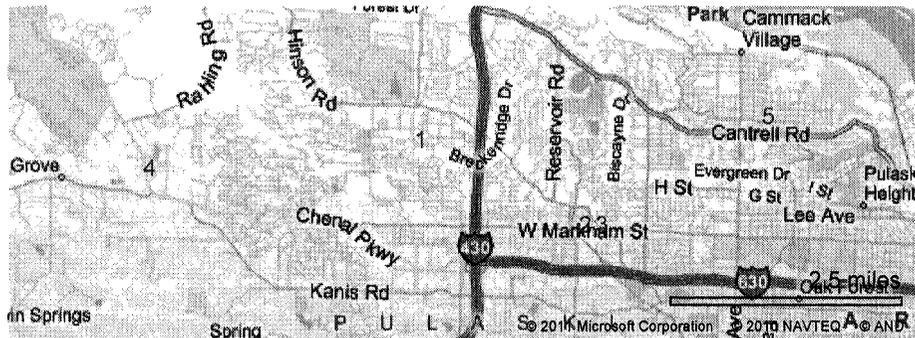
COMMENTS EXHIBIT 1



Post Office™ Locations

[PRINT](#) | [BACK](#)

Post Office™ Locations near 72212



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1 Post Office™
Location - WESTSIDE
11415 HURON LN
LITTLE ROCK, AR
72211-9998
(800) ASK-USPS
(800) 275-8777
(501) 225-2307</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">0.4 mi</p> | <p>Business Hours
Mon-Fri
9:00am-6:00pm
Sat
10:00am-2:00pm
Sun
closed</p> | <p>Services
PO Boxes Online
Automated Postal Centers®</p> <p>Service hours may vary. Please check link for business hours.</p> |
| <p>2 Post Office™
Location - BRADY FINANCE
8509 W MARKHAM ST
LITTLE ROCK, AR
72205-2400
(800) ASK-USPS
(800) 275-8777
(501) 219-2933</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">2.3 mi</p> | <p>Business Hours
Mon-Fri
8:00am-5:00pm
Sat
10:00am-1:00pm
Sun
closed</p> | <p>Services
PO Boxes Online
Automated Postal Centers®</p> <p>Service hours may vary. Please check link for business hours.</p> |
| <p>3 Post Office™
Location - BRADY
8313 W MARKHAM ST
LITTLE ROCK, AR
72205-9998
(800) ASK-USPS
(800) 275-8777
(501) 223-9934</p> <p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">2.5 mi</p> | | |

4 Post Office™
Location - CHENAL STATION
 815 TECHNOLOGY DR
 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72223-9998
 (800) ASK-USPS
 (800) 275-8777
 (501) 821-6299
2.6 mi

Business Hours
 Mon-Fri 9:15am-5:30pm
 Sat 9:00am-1:00pm
 Sun closed

Services
PO Boxes Online
 Service hours may vary. Please check link for business hours.

5 Post Office™
Location - FOREST PARK
 5420 KAVANAUGH BLVD
 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72207-9998
 (800) ASK-USPS
 (800) 275-8777
 (501) 666-5126
4.2 mi

Business Hours
 Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm
 Sat 10:00am-1:00pm
 Sun closed

Post Office™ Locations near 72212

By City

[LITTLE ROCK](#) [MAUMELLE](#) [MABELVALE](#) [NORTH LITTLE ROCK](#) [ALEXANDER](#)

By ZIP Code

[72211](#) [72205](#) [72223](#) [72207](#) [72204](#) [72113](#) [72209](#) [72210](#) [72103](#) [72201](#)
[72114](#) [72206](#) [72202](#) [72116](#) [72002](#) [72135](#) [72022](#) [72164](#) [72231](#) [72053](#)

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Search for a person and perform a reverse lookup on phone numbers and addresses.

Business Search

Search for a business by name or category nationwide.

Reverse Phone Number

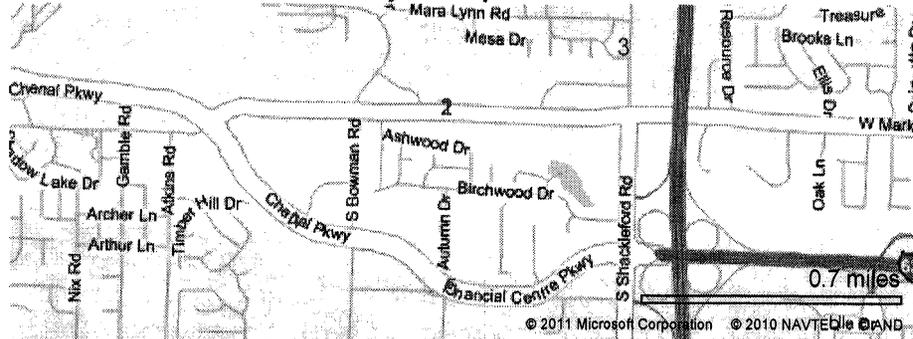
See who is calling you

COMMENTS EXHIBIT 2



Alternate Locations to Buy Stamps

Alternate Locations to Buy Stamps near 72212



1	US BANK 11402 W MARKHAM ST LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211-2806	0.9 mi	Directions More info Nearby Businesses
2	OFFICE DEPOT 11400 W MARKHAM ST LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211-2806	0.9 mi	Directions More info Nearby Businesses
3	KROGER 315 N SHACKLEFORD RD LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211-2843	1.0 mi	Directions More info Nearby Businesses
4	STAPLES 12309 CHENAL PKWY LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211-2723	1.1 mi	Directions More info Nearby Businesses
5	METROPOLITAN NATIONAL BANK 11525 FINANCIAL CENTRE PKWY LITTLE ROCK, AR 72211-3715	1.3 mi	Directions More info Nearby Businesses

Post Office™ Locations near 72212			
By City			
LITTLE ROCK	MAUMELLE	MABELVALE	ALEXANDER

NORTH LITTLE
ROCK

By ZIP Code

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