

Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on July 26, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Innis post office located in Innis, Louisiana. The petition for review was filed online on July 26, 2011 by Larry Rebalais (Petitioner).

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than August 10, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary

Date: July 27, 2011

Attachment

July 25, 2011

Shoshana Grove, Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW – Suite #200
Washington D.C. 20268-001

RE: This is an appeal to request and petition for review of the Final Determination to Close the Innis, Louisiana Post Office and establish service by community Post Office. Docket Number 1367966 -70747 and furthermore to set aside the determination of the United States Postal Service to close and establish service by community Post Office and that any such determination shall be suspended pending a decision of the claims set forth in documentation we plan to present.

Secretary and Members of the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I hereby, respectfully request this appeal and petition for review of the Final Determination to Close the Innis, Louisiana 70747 Post Office and establish service by community Post Office. Docket Number 1367966 -70747. As a petitioner I, we, rent business and personal post office boxes. Closure is a mistake and will cause substantial harm to users without financial benefit to the Postal Service and with significant probability of financial loss to the Postal Service. This post office serves a portion of the surrounding unincorporated rural community. In the Postal Reorganization Act there are provisions that calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas and small towns where the post office is not self-sustaining.

The Postal Service has arbitrarily and capriciously refused legitimate request to answer questions submitted at the Innis town hall meeting held at the Innis Community

Center, and review cost saving proposals submitted and has not produced documentation pertaining to the closure and consolidation made by petitioner and the Innis community.

From the Innis budget shown in the closure plan, the saving of merging all three Post Office units from the country to the only town or village, being Innis would save the USPS over twice the amount projected from closing the Innis location and moving it out of town to the rural Batchelor unit. No consideration was given by USPS to this more financially lucrative plan that cuts the budget more by merging all three postal units to only town, Innis. Letters were sent to USPS officials and the Louisiana Congressional Delegation with the demographics, suggestions, and logic for recommendations of alternative cost savings with no reply from USPS. *(In an effort to better serve postal patrons, we, the community proposed closure and consolidation of two postal facilities rurally within 3 and 4 miles respectively to one Post Office of the only town, Innis and petition to have services, including two routes, to begin all from Innis, Louisiana 70747. Note* Town founded 1868. Note** In 1895 a Post Office was established in the town. Note*** There are no career postmasters at any of the three postal locations.)*

The USPS has been non responsive to request for clarification or discussion on suggestions for improvement. Suspension of the Postal Service's determination is necessary because petitioners and the general public will suffer irreparable loss if there is any disruption of service at the post office. It is unclear if the correspondence of January 24th letter from USPS to postal patrons in Innis is a the determination to close the Innis post office as contemplated by 39 U.S.C. &404(d)(5) or only a letter soliciting possible

information and or change about where customers would like their mail delivered in the future.

Innis is the central hub of the rural community area, the only town anywhere in the area, and is the only small village that is growing towards town incorporation. The Postal Service, many years ago violated their own rule by establishing rural route boxes within the town of Innis post office jurisdiction to only blocks away from the Innis post office from the other two postal locations. This has continued to reduce Innis revenue. The routes should never have been run out of Batchelor 70715, Lettsworth 70759 post offices. These communities disappeared years ago. This service long ago we think was racially motivated along ethnic factions to serve farmers on the route. Today, there is no reason for three post offices within 4 miles of one another for such a rural area, located each side of Innis on Louisiana Highway #1.

We have experienced many process issues since the first communications from the USPS that lead us to the conclusion that the USPS has acted arbitrarily in handling the process and procedure for closure of the Innis, Louisiana post office in reference to written communication and calls and concerns that have not been answered and followed through by the USPS.

Again, there are THREE post offices within 4 miles of each other to serve a portion of the surrounding unincorporated rural community. Why would the USPS want to close the post office in the only town, Innis and move it 4.4 miles to a rural post office

with no town? *INNIS is the only small village that is growing towards town incorporation.* The USPS proposal must explain the services recommended and rationale that supports this recommendation. They never listened to the Innis community on questionnaires, emails, and town hall meeting questions raised, the town hall presentation, and telephone conversations. Closure of the Innis post office as recommended will result in local customers having to travel an additional 4.4 miles to the USPS suggested site. This alternate facility suggested in Batchelor, LA is a *Daiquiri, beer, and liquor convenience store.* We provided USPS with a letter outlining our plan and presented the plan for consolidation of all three post offices. The presentation to the USPS officials at the Innis town hall meeting included photographs of all three post office locations to show that there are too many post offices (3) three in a 4 mile distance from each other in this area. The photographs depict Innis as the only town anywhere near and show each of the two other rural post offices and vicinity. Changes should have been made years ago. Throughout the upper Pointe Coupee USPS last (40) forty year history, now is the time to rectify this problem by consolidation to save money.

Again, to date, several emails and letters were sent to USPS officials and none of these letters and emails were answered or addressed with the concerns expressed in the letters, nor follow up to the concerns of the town hall meeting.

In the Economic Savings section of the closure document the USPS, maintains that the annual savings will be \$35,804. This is erroneous and misleading figures from the Innis budget. With the consolidation plan two (2) times or more money would be

saved, \$71,608 would be the savings expected and more. No study was done by USPS to determine what dollar additional expense would be needed for routes and other services. What cost was deducted from the savings? There is one business that makes significant postal purchases in large volumes of postal products and services at the Batchelor post office skewing the revenue numbers for Batchelor. None of this revenue is from the general public, thus, misleading to the public into closing a Post Office that should not be closed. There is definitely an economic impact from closing or consolidation of Post Office locations, particularly in the Innis community. The other two Postal locations are already struggling to maintain their core in this rural area. According to the census, the area is comprised of many low income African American families. Rural areas and relatively low income areas are disproportionately impacted, given their larger dependency on USPS for personal business. Some of the families who live in Batchelor and Lettsworth rural areas are Caucasian middle class. This USPS plan moves the Innis post office to 4.3 miles away. Our residents deeply depend on the Innis post office. The USPS suggestion to provide rural delivery service raises questions concerning the sanctity of the mail and the risk involved in the handling of mail by non-career employees. I also foresee inconveniences in purchasing money orders and stamps that cannot provide same day service and sending accountable mail. We have the same concerns regarding the receipt of accountable mail, such as certified letters, registered letters COD's and the use of Postal Assistant for Priority Mail. Not having these services mentioned will be a hardship on everyone in our community. If a letter or package requires a signature, this means that the letter or package cannot be delivered by the rural carrier. This will mean a trip of 4.4 miles to the next postal facility. For many of our

citizens, this trip is a hardship. Priority mail shipped by USPS postal assistant will have to be carried miles away to be finalized and can not be processed by route service.

In the **Concerns and Response** section of the USPS Final Determination document, the concerns and responses given in the determination were US Postal templates, not answering the town's people's questions raised. These templates of cookie cutter concerns and remarks used are some of the same concerns and response found in similar documents for all postal facilities subject to closure. USPS was not forthcoming with information to the Innis community needs. From the survey sent to the Innis post office patrons, 20% of responses of entire people disapprove of the USPS plan and only 1% favor the USPS plan.

The Postal Service did not follow the procedural requirements of 39 U.S.C. &404(d) and 39 C.F.R. 241.3 in its determination to close the Innis post office. In the copy of the notice which was posted in the Innis post office and sent to the postal patrons at Innis, on January 24, 2011, the notice does not indicate that the Innis post office was being considered for closing but rather indicates the Postal Service is asking for opinions concerning and considering a possible change in the way postal services are provided. The notice suggested opportunities to discuss *alternatives* with the USPS at the public town hall meeting February 16, 2011.

When the Public Town Hall meeting was held comments were given by the postal officials. At the town hall meeting postal patrons were encouraged to send letters. The

postal patrons asked questions in reference to income and expense, box holder counts, route weighted volume of the two other rural post offices within the 4 miles of each other for comparisons. The answers to these questions were never received by the postal patrons. Because of the rationale given by the Postal Service to consolidate the Innis post office with the Batchelor post office and create and establish service by community post office will not be a cost savings but additional cost. Answers to the questions which ask for the projections of new expense were not received. There are many questions and issues that have not been answered by the postal officials to a more financially lucrative plan that cuts the budget more by merging all three postal units to the only town in Innis. USPS did not provide any consideration to this plan. Innis is the only unincorporated town. Our consolidation merger plan is more financially lucrative, providing a greater savings, more convenience and perpetuates future incorporation of the town of Innis. Innis centrally located. USPS throughout the years perpetuated and compounded the problem by allowing rural route service into and around the village of Innis and in all of the village streets and businesses thus, not following postal regulations governing route services in other post office jurisdiction. Over forty years ago many people lived in the rural areas of Lettsworth and Batchelor. At that time two additional post offices and routes may have been warranted. Innis did not have a route at that time but had a larger population with PO Boxes and larger mail volume as an unincorporated town.

All additional supporting documentation will be provided to the U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission by the to-be-stipulated deadline(s). Thank you for your consideration to resolve and correct an issue that began over forty years ago. We would

appreciate your cogitation concerning the consolidation and merger of the Lettsworth and Batchelor post offices to the Innis post office with rural routes from Innis.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Rabalais, General Manager
Terra-Jet U.S.A.
P.O. Box 918
Junction Highway 417 & 419
Innis, Louisiana 70747
U.S.A.
Phone 225.492.2249
Fax 225.492.2226
E Mail Terra-Jet@Terra-Jet.com; TerraJet@yahoo.com
Website <http://Terra-Jet.com>

CC: All Members of Louisiana Congressional Delegation, Local Office and Washington D.C. Office
By Fax and U.S. Postal Service

Subscription

I certify under penalty of perjury that I have read the forgoing Petition; I Know the contents thereof; that the Petition has been subscribed and executed in the capacity specified in the document is true and no such statements are misleading; and that such document is not filed for purposes of delay.



Larry Rabalais

To: Commission, Office of Public Affairs and Government Relations
901 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Petition: We, the undersigned state that we are doing business with the Innis Post Office 70747. The service we have received at the Innis Post Office has been thorough, fair and performed in a courteous manner. The Innis Post Office has always provided an invaluable service to the local community. We would appreciate your consideration concerning the consolidation and merger of the Lettsworth and Batchelor Post Office's to Innis Post Office with rural routes from Innis.

Name Coia Polk

Name Purpur's AB

Name Carolyn Gunnell
Company _____

Name ~~Phyllis~~ ~~Ann~~
Company Kodney Remains

Name Angela Lewis
Company _____

Name Andy Lemon
Company _____

Name John M. Mills
Company _____

Name Karlise Puffer
Company _____

Name Joseph Lavin
Company _____

Name Vera Soules
Company _____

Name ~~Joseph Lavin~~
Company _____

Name Janet Carroll
Company Tonia Lister Para.

Name Joseph Lavin
Company _____

Name Jan Kabaian
Company Rest. out USA

Name Lelia Lavin
Company _____

Name Joann Soules
Company _____

Name Troy Ramsey
Company LA Litter Service

Name Joe Imami
Company _____

Name Rose Darter
Company _____

Name Christoph Soules
Company _____

Charles Roy Soules

Renarda Polk

Name Honnie C. Wells

Name Dee Kamaos

Name Maria Christal
Company _____

Name Elouise Mator
Company _____

Name Mchal Christal

Name Florida M. Carter

Name Donnie Fetzer
Company _____

Name Earl S. Davis
Company _____

Sharon Turner

Sandra Aquilard
Lauren Seldani

Tania Trutor
Emily Lithe
La Tauria Porche
Pam Purpera
Beth Anne Rodgers

Yitoka Franka

Robert James
Dee Ramagos

Donnie Purpera
Bob Lenard

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A L Lenard
Annette Lenard
Frank Reginald Purpera
Betty Lenard

Walter Davis
Janet Carroll

Ashley Carroll
Elmer Carroll

Jesse Moore
Joseph J. Lopez
Karl J. Lopez

Emma M. Fawcett
Michael Smith

Parline Walker
Natasha Swift

Kevin Morphy

Jim O'Neil + Mrs
Katalin Han

Shirley Webb
George Franken

Name Jordan Demaine
Company _____

Name Tameka Walker
Company _____

Name Joel Demaine
Company _____

Name William Walker
Company _____

Name Suzanne Johnson
Company Rodney Johnson

Name Damon Walker
Company _____

Name Yolanda Lane
Company _____

Name Jessie D. Dixon
Company _____

Name Penny Smith
Company _____

Name Donnie Wells
Company _____

Name Roosevelt Polk
Company _____

Name Sharon Turner
Company _____

Name Rodney Lemire
Company Perkins AB

Name Prevaling Word Church
Company Pastor Kenneth Hanson Sr

Name Timothy C. Toulouse
Company _____

Name Donald East
Company _____

Rabalais & Son, Louisiana, Inc.
Terry Jeff USA
Larry Rabalais
Michele Rabalais
Doree Rabalais

Skills USA Louisiana
Inc.
Larry Rabalais

Date of Posting: 07/08/2011

Date of Removal: 08/09/2011



**FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE
THE INNIS, LA POST OFFICE
AND ESTABLISH
SERVICE BY COMMUNITY POST OFFICE**

DOCKET NUMBER 1367966 - 70747

I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Innis, LA Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by community post office under the administrative responsibility of the Batchelor Post Office, located three miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster was reassigned on July 02, 2008. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office. Postmaster level and office service hours are determined by a workload analysis which includes the number of deliveries and revenue.

The office was studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reasons: Innis Post Office Postmaster's position became vacant on 7/2/2008 and earns less than 2 hrs, actual earned for FY 10 was 1.72. It will be more cost effective and enable the Postal Service to better serve our customers by consolidating Innis Post Office with the Batchelor Post Office which is located 3.38 miles away.

The Innis Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 07:30 to 16:00 Monday - Friday , 08:00 to 11:00 on Saturday and lobby hours of 24 on Monday - Friday and 24 on Saturday to 89 post office box or general delivery customers and no delivery customers. Retail services included the sale of stamps, stamped paper, and money orders; special services such as Registered Mail, Certified Mail, Insured Mail, COD Mail, and Express Mail services; and the acceptance and dispatch of all classes of mail.

The retail window averaged 25 transaction(s) accounting for 25 minute(s) of retail workload daily. With minimal workload, the Postal Service feels that effective and regular service will be provided by community post office. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$21,026 (55 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$15,804 (41 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$19,089 (50 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were no permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On February 16, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at the Innis Community Gym, 6450 LA Hwy 1, Innis, LA 70747 to answer questions and provide information to customers. 40 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On January 24, 2011, 125 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Innis Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Innis Post Office. 54 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 3 favorable, 26 unfavorable, and 25 expressed no opinion.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Batchelor Post Office, an EAS-13 level office. Window service hours at the Batchelor Post Office are from 07:30 16:00, Monday through Friday, and 08:00 11:00 on Saturday. There are 56 post office boxes available.

The proposal to close the Innis Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Innis Post Office and Batchelor Post Office from March 30, 2011 to May 31, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

- 1. Concern:** Customers asked why their post office was being discontinued while others were retained

Response: The customer asked why the suspended post office was being discontinued while others were retained. Post offices are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When there is a vacancy in a small office, it is customary to conduct a study of the business activity and investigate the feasibility of providing service by alternate means.
- 2. Concern:** Customers expressed concern for loss of community identity

Response: The customer expressed a concern about the loss of the Communities' identity. A community's identity derives from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. The Postal Service is helping to preserve community identity by continuing the use of the suspended Post Office name and ZIP Code in addresses and in the National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory.
- 3. Concern:** Customers expressed concern for those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to adminoffice Post Office to pick up their mail

Response: The customer expressed a concern about those customers with disabilities who are not able to go to the post office to pick up their mail. Customers are not required to travel to another post office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These services will be provided by the carrier to a roadside mailbox located close to customers' residences. In hardship cases, delivery can be made to the home of a customer. Changes in the type of delivery are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship for an

individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery method must be submitted in writing to the administrative postmaster.

4. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern over the apparent lack of interest by the Postal Service for the needs of the community

Response:

The customer expressed a concern that the Postal Service exhibits a lack of interest in the mailing needs of the community. The Postal Service is required to provide each community with regular and effective service, using the most cost efficient means possible. The proposed alternate delivery service will meet the mailing and service needs of the community in a more cost effective manner.

5. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern over the dependability of rural route service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern over the dependability of rural route service. Rural letter carriers perform a vital function in the United States Postal Service serving thousands of families and businesses in rural and suburban areas while traveling millions of miles daily. Rural letter carriers are highly respected by the American public. This respect has been earned by many years of dedication to the Postal Service and to postal customers. During national and local emergencies, including prolonged periods of extreme weather conditions, rural carriers have demonstrated great responsibility in providing mail service to postal customers. Rural carriers are required to serve the route expeditiously and arrive at boxes at about the same time each day.

6. **Concern:**

Customers inquired about building a new facility or a mobile unit

Response:

The customer inquired about building a new facility or a mobile unit. New construction or the placement of a mobile unit or trailer is not feasible when regular and effective service can be provided by more cost-effective alternatives, such as rural delivery.

7. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about a change of address

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about a change in address. Customers will be assigned a 911 address. The new address will continue to use the community name and ZIP Code. Mail will be forwarded in accordance with postal regulations, and change of address forms are available from the Postal Service to assist customers in notifying correspondents of the change.

8. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

9. **Concern:**

Customers were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier

Response:

The customer were concerned about obtaining services from the carrier, retail services provided at the post office are available from the carrier. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Listed below are some services available from the carrier and how to obtain them.

PURCHASING STAMPS BY MAIL

The Stamps by Mail Program provides customers the opportunity to purchase stamps, envelopes, and postal cards by using Form 3227-R, Stamp Purchase Order (Rural), available from the post office or the carrier. Commemorative stamps and stamp collecting products are also available. The customer addresses the postage paid order form envelope, encloses payment by personal check or postal money order made payable to the US Postal Service, and mails the form (postage-free) or leaves it in the mailbox for the carrier to pick up. Most

orders are processed overnight, and some immediately.

PURCHASING POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Customers may purchase money orders by meeting the carrier at the mailbox, completing an application, and paying the carrier (in cash) the price of the money order, plus the fee. The carrier gives the customer a receipt for the application. The money order is completed when the carrier returns to the post office, and a money order receipt is left in the customer's mailbox on the next delivery day. Most customers provide the carrier with a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the completed money order is mailed to its destination. If customers prefer, the completed money orders will be returned for verification on the next delivery day.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special services such as certified, registered, Express Mail, delivery confirmation, signature confirmation, and COD may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox, along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

HOLDING MAIL

Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the post office during their absence. Upon return the customer asks the post office to resume delivery.

10. **Concern:**

You expressed a concern that they requested and were denied rural delivery service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern that you requested and were denied rural delivery service. There are several guidelines which must be met prior to a road being approved for delivery. The road to be traveled must be at least 14 feet wide and maintained at all times of the year. It cannot dead end in a private driveway even if the drive is maintained by a municipality. There must be a suitable turning point provided for the carrier, preferably with no backing. If backing is involved, there are other guidelines to adhere to. If backing is necessitated, the Postmaster must verify it is in a low-traffic area and there are no children in the immediate vicinity on a regular basis. There must also be a minimum of one family per one-half mile of travel.

11. **Concern:**

You were concerned about having to travel to another post office for service

Response:

The customer expressed a concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Services provided at the post office will be available from the carrier, and customers will not have to travel to another post office for service. Most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. Stamps by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience.

12. **Concern:**

Customers expressed concern that postal employees at the adminoffice Post Office are rude

Response:

The customer expressed a concern that postal employees at the administrative Post Office are rude. Employee courtesy is always a concern of postal managers. Postal employees receive periodic instructions regarding employee courtesy. We do not condone our employees' execution of their duties in an unprofessional or discourteous manner. This concern will be conveyed to the postmaster by the manager, post office operations.

13. **Concern:**

Customers inquired about what hours and services would be provided by the CPO

Response:

The customer inquired about the hours and services that will be provided by the CPO. The CPO will be contracted to provide at least the same hours as the present post office. Depending on the location, the CPO may provide expanded lobby hours. Services will be the same as provided at the post office, except for permit mail acceptance.

14. **Concern:** Customers questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance
- Response:** The customer questioned the economic savings of the proposed discontinuance. Carrier service is more cost-effective than maintaining a postal facility and postmaster position. The Postal Service estimates an positive annual savings.
15. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about a change of ZIP Code
- Response:** The customer expressed a concern about a change of ZIP Code. The proposed change of the ZIP Code is necessary due to 911 addressing requirements.

Some advantages of the proposal are:

1. The rural and contract carriers may provide retail services, alleviating the need to go to the post office. Stamps by Mail order forms are provided for customer convenience.
2. Customers opting for carrier service will have 24-hour access to their mail.
3. Savings for the Postal Service contribute in the long run to stable postage rates and savings for customers.
4. CBUs can offer the security of individually locked mail compartments. Parcel lockers provide convenient parcel delivery for customers.
5. Customers opting for carrier service will not have to pay post office box fees.
6. Saves time and energy for customers who drive to the post office to pick up mail.

Some disadvantages of the proposal are:

1. The loss of a retail outlet and a postmaster position in the community. Retail services may be provided by the rural or contract delivery carrier.
2. Meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier at the box to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions.
3. A change in the mailing address. The community name will continue to be used in the new address. A carrier route address will be assigned.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community.

II. EFFECT ON COMMUNITY

Innis is an unincorporated community located in Pointe Coupee Parish County. The community is administered politically by No. Police protection is provided by the Yes - Pointe Coupee Sheriff (Parish). Fire protection is provided by the Yes - Innis Volunteer Fire Dept.. The community is comprised of Retirees, Self-Employed, Farmers, and Elderly and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Prevailing Word Church Good Faith Church Saint Stevens Episcopal Church, Purpera Supermarket Innis Hardware Innis Water Co. Innis Library Golden Wings . Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Innis Post Office will be available at the Batchelor Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Batchelor Post Office or by contacting your local government agency.

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed from questionnaires, the community meeting, on the petition, and on the congressional inquiry:

None

Based on the information obtained in the course of this discontinuance study, the Postal Service concludes this final determination will not adversely affect the community.

III. EFFECT ON EMPLOYEES

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster was reassigned on July 02, 2008. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the Postal Service. No other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the office.

IV. ECONOMIC SAVINGS

The Postal Service estimates an annual savings of \$ 35,804 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 25,022
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 8,382
Annual Lease Costs	<u>+ \$ 2,400</u>
Total Annual Costs	\$ 35,804
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	<u>- \$ 0</u>
Total Annual Savings	<u>\$ 35,804</u>

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

VI. SUMMARY

This is the final determination to close the Innis, LA Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by community post office under the administrative responsibility of the Batchelor Post Office, located three miles away.

The postmaster was reassigned on July 02, 2008. If the office has a noncareer PMR(s), they may be separated from the Postal Service; however, attempts will be made to reassign the employee(s) to a nearby facility. No other employee(s) will be adversely affected. The mail volume has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by community post office.

The Innis Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 89 PO Box or general delivery customers and no delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 25. There are no permit mailers or postage meter customers.

There will no longer be a retail outlet in the community. However, delivery and retail services may be available from a rural or contract delivery carrier, which could alleviate the need to travel to a Post Office for service. The Postal Service will save an estimated \$35,804 annually. A disadvantage to some will be in meeting the rural or contract delivery carrier to transact business. However, it is not necessary to be present to conduct most Postal Service transactions with rural or contract delivery carrier.

Taking all available information into consideration, the Postal Service has determined that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and this final determination is warranted.

VII. NOTICES

- A. **Support Materials.** Copies of all materials upon which this final determination is based are available for public inspection at the Innis Post Office and Batchelor Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. **Appeal Rights.** This final determination to close the Innis Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Regulatory Commission at 901 New York Ave NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20268-0001. Appeals must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this final determination is posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission or the parties to the appeal will be made available for public inspection at Innis Post Office and Batchelor Post Office during normal office hours.



Dean J Granholm
Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

07/08/2011

Date