

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

Retail Access Optimization Initiative

Docket No. N2011-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 3

(Issued August 30, 2011)

The Postal Service is requested to respond to the following questions to clarify the record on its request for an advisory opinion under 39 U.S.C. 3661(c) regarding the examination of continuation of service at approximately 3,650 postal retail locations.¹ In order to facilitate inclusion of the requested material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service shall have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers and be prepared to explain, to the extent necessary, the basis for the answers at the hearings. Responses shall be provided no later than September 6, 2011.

1. As part of the Retail Access Optimization Initiative (RAOI), the Postal Service contends that a Village Post Office (VPO), Contract Postal Unit (CPU), Contract Post Office (CPO), consignment retailer, retail alliance partner, and Retail Annex are alternate access sites for customer access to retail postal services.²
 - a. Please confirm that the Postal Service does not follow the guidelines in the USPS Handbook PO-101 for closing or consolidating a VPO, CPU, CPO, consignment retailer, retail alliance partner, or Retail Annex.

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in the Nature of Postal Services, July 27, 2011 (Request).

² See Responses of the United States Postal Service to APWU Interrogatories APWU/USPS-T1-1 and T1-3 Through 5, August 23, 2011, at T1-3.

contributing factor[s]” as it is used in the handbook, and indicate whether utility and maintenance costs are “major contributing factor[s]”.

5. Please explain separately how the Postal Service will consider the lease expiration date, rent expense, number of post office boxes, congressional district, and fair market value in its consideration of whether to close facilities as part of the RAOI.
6. Please provide a scalable map plotting the location of facilities under consideration in the RAOI.
7. Please refer to the attached Excel workbook “POIR_3_Database_Tables_and_Columns.xls.” Sheet “FDB” contains table names and column names from the Facilities Database. Sheet “CDSC” contains categories in the Change Suspension Discontinuance Center program. Please provide a brief description of the tables, columns, and categories listed in that workbook.
8. Please provide a spreadsheet that includes, for each Postal Service-operated retail facility by finance number consistent with those previously submitted, the following information:³

³ The Postal Service has indicated that compiling cost and revenue data for stations and branches requires a time-consuming manual culling process. Objections of the United States Postal Service to Interrogatories APWU/USPS-T-1-1(d&e) and T1-2 (August 22, 2011) at 6. To the extent that compiling the requested data is similarly burdensome, the Postal Service may substitute available data (for example, data compiled in Docket No. N2009-1), or omit data for stations and branches if none is readily available.

- a. The total number of post office boxes located at the facility;
 - b. The number of rented post office boxes located at the facility;
 - c. The number of customers on a waiting list to rent a post office box at the facility;
 - d. The number of retail windows in each facility; and
 - e. The number of clerical employees operating the registers (these could be Clerks or Postmasters, for example) at each facility.
9. Please refer to page 5 of the Request, which describes the categories of facilities that have been identified for discontinuance review.
- a. Please identify the number of facilities, if any, that were not subjected to the screening process, and describe the reasons they were excluded.
 - b. Please identify the number of facilities that were subjected to the screening process that were ultimately not identified for discontinuance review.
 - c. Of the facilities subjected to the screening process that were not identified for discontinuance review, how many operated at a deficit in FY2010 (how many had "total operating expenses" that exceeded "total operating revenue," as these items are defined in USPS-LR-N2011-1/NP3)?

Ruth Y. Goldway
Presiding Officer