

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Submitted 10/7/2011 3:00:00 PM  
Filing ID: 76416  
Accepted 10/7/2011

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Page Nbr: 1



**NOTICE OF TAKING PROPOSAL AND COMMENTS  
UNDER INTERNAL CONSIDERATION**

Date 07/25/2011

Postal Customers of the Belk Post Office: The Postal Service appreciates receiving the views of those of you who submitted comments on the proposal to close the Belk Post Office, which was posted 05/23/2011 through 07/24/2011. These comments will be considered carefully as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels within the Postal Service.

When a final decision is made by the Postal Service, that decision will be posted in place of this notice. If the decision is to approve the proposal, any customer of the Belk Post Office who disagrees will have the right to appeal that decision to the Postal Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

GREG CONNER  
PO BOX 1026  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 36201-1026

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07/21/2011

MARY ELIZABETH AYCOCK YERBY

3478 CODY RD  
KENNEDY, AL 36674

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- You 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. 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 Community name and ZIP Code in addresses if you retain PO Box delivery.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Connor  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

EARL BALLINGER  
1186 BALLINGER RD  
FAYETTE, AL 35556

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Balk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- You 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 621-0486.

Sincerely,

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

BILLY WELSH  
PO BOX 75  
BELK, AL 35546

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- The rural carrier provides all the services that are available at the Post Office with the exception of PO Box service and bulk mail acceptance. This includes stamp sales, package pick up, special services and money order sales. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town. 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 621-0485.

Sincerely,

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

SHERRY WELSH

PO BOX 75  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- You 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

CAROLYN SUSAN NEWMAN

7630 CODY RD  
KENNEDY, AL 35574

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 621-0486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1028  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1028

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07/21/2011

WYMAN BLAKNEY

PO BOX 25  
BELK, AL 36545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1028  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1028

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07/21/2011

JAMES EDWARD WRIGHT

PO BOX 165  
BELK, AL 36545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (206) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner".

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

MOLLY JO WRIGHT

PO BOX 165  
35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamp by Mail and Money Order Application forms are available for customer convenience. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. There will be no change in customer addresses if the PO Box is retained.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

LINDA PENNINGTON

2442 COUNTY RD 20  
MILLPORT, AL 35576

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- The administrative Post Office serves a much larger community and has a heavier retail window workload. This concern has been brought to the attention of the administrative postmaster, window operations will be monitored to ensure that customers do not have an unreasonable wait to obtain services. The carrier can provide retail services, alleviating the need for customers to go to the Post Office for service. 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. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner".

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

DON NEWMAN  
7830 CODY RD  
KENNEDY, AL 35574

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner".

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

MAYOR RONALD WALDROP

PO BOX 1  
BELK, AL 35546

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth. We are in receipt of your Belk Post Office Usage by Industries in Belk.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 621-0465.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

ROSA ATKINS  
PO BOX 48  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. We are currently requesting from Congress to stop Saturday mail delivery.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1028  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1028

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07/21/2011

JOE WALDROP

PO BOX 61  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1028  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1028

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Page Nbr: 14



07/21/2011

ANN WALDROP

PO BOX 61  
BELK, AL 35646

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- You expressed a concern about the detrimental effect the loss of the Post Office would have on the community. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 621-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

CAROLYN MOORE

PO BOX 14  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner".

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1028  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1028

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07/21/2011

CHESTER R MOORE

PO BOX 14  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (206) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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07/21/2011

ARMON NEWMAN

PO BOX 44  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the administrative Post Office.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service. If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLUJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1028  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1028

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07/21/2011

DEAN DAVIS

PO BOX 22  
BELK, AL 35545

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Belk Post Office. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the administrative Post Office. 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact CARLIJHA GOREE at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg D. Conner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Greg Conner  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
PO Box 1026  
Birmingham, AL, 35201-1026

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**A. Office**

Name: BELK State: AL Zip Code: 35545  
 Area: SOUTHWEST District: ALABAMA PFC  
 Congressional District: 4 County: FAYETTE  
 EAS Grade: 11 Finance Number: 010640  
 Post Office:  Classified Station  Classified Branch  CPO

This form is a place holder for number 39. There was not a premature appeal received.

Prepared by: CARLIJHA GOREE  
 Title: ALABAMA PFC Post Office Review Coordinator  
 Tele No: (205) 521-0485

Date: 08/15/2011  
 Fax No: (850) 677-4390

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PAGE 1

Number of Questionnaires	
Number of comments returned	18
Favorable comments	0
Unfavorable comments	18
No opinion expressed	0
Total comments returned	18



**Postal Concerns**

The following postal concerns were expressed

Concern (UnFavorable):

Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service.

1. There are many businesses in our town that need everyday service for their business to prosper. They will suffer greatly if they don't have service. This will cost jobs that we need for the community to prosper. You will be making a mistake to adopt the proposal! We really need our service and our community needs the business it brings.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

Concern (UnFavorable):

2. I. At our age if we have to travel any distance to get our mail that would be time consuming for us older people for some of us this is the only way to get our mail. II. It is convenient for older people and a good meeting place to see friends. III. Route service is not easy for this area. Its convenient for us to get our stamps, you can't mail large parcels and can't receive large packages.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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

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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. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

Concern (Unfavorable):

- 3. I. Closing would place hardship as the next closest post office is 12 miles away and the Belk Post Office is only four miles. With Gasoline prices on the rise it would be costly for us to drive the extra miles. II. Local businesses would have to use the post office eight miles away. III. Seems that additional travel would be created for the postal service for the county and town of Belk, AL.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

Concern (Unfavorable):

- 4. I. I am co-owner of N&N Transport, Inc. This will affect our business by us not getting our mail early enough to deposit the checks the same day. II. There are several senior citizens in our community that rely on the Belk Post Office. III. Only one employee works at the Belk Post Office and she is not full time.

Response:

Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the administrative Post Office.

Concern (Unfavorable):

- 5. I. I am on a Millport route but I use the Belk Post Office when I am going to Fayette on business. I don't use the Fayette Post Office because you have to stand in line and sometimes the waits are long. If I have to use the Post Office in Fayette I will probably just use UPS. II. I think a lot of the people who reside in Belk are probably elderly and this could cause a great expense and hindrance for them to have to use Fayette or Kennedy. III. There are several businesses in Belk that depend on the postal service.

Response:

The administrative Post Office serves a much larger community and has a heavier retail window workload. This concern has been brought to the attention of the administrative postmaster, window operations will be monitored to ensure that customers do not have an unreasonable wait to obtain services. The carrier can provide retail services, alleviating the need for customers to go to the Post Office for service. Customers are not required to travel to another Post Office to receive mail or obtain retail services. These

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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. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

6. I. I go to the post office as I need to. Without the post office, it would be a great inconvenience in traveling to Fayette or waiting on the postal carrier. II. It would definitely harm the image of Belk. If a new industry attempted to come to Belk, they would think that the town was losing its image of growth.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

7. I. I work for a trucking company in Belk. We pick up our mail at 9:AM. Therefore we can deposit the checks before 2PM. This is necessary. The mail carrier doesn't come by the trucking company until after 1PM. This would be an inconvenience. II. There are three large businesses in Belk that use the post office there, as well as older people that will be inconvenienced by having to go to Fayette. III. We pick up mail in the morning and mail many invoices in the afternoon. This would cause us to have to drive to Fayette twice a day.

**Response:**

Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the administrative Post Office. 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

8. **Concern (UnFavorable):**

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I. If we have to travel any distance to get our mail that would be an added expense and time consuming a problem for older people. II. Inconvenient for older people sometimes a meeting place. III. Route service is not very dependable in our area. Inconvenient for stamps and receiving larger parcels of mail not convenient for mailing large packages.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

9. I. It would make it very, very inconvenient. II. A profound effect on the community businesses and patrons. III. I believe the government should do all they can to keep the post office at Belk.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

10. I. The closing of the Belk Post Office will be hard for me and other Senior Citizens. We rely on the post office because it is close we can mail and not have to go a long way to do this. II. We have several business who have mail to mail everyday and it would be a hardship for them to travel to Fayette everyday for mailing purposes. They would probably go to Fed Ex and therefore the post office would lose business they need. III. You should consider stopping Saturday mail as many businesses do not work that day.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-

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STAMP-24. 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. We are currently requesting from Congress to stop Saturday mail delivery.

Concern (Unfavorable):

11. I. The post office is very important to the area because of all the businesses of this area. We had a need for the post office before and the need still exist. II. It has a very important effect on the community because it would very seriously downgrade the town. III. I believe there are other ways to cut cost than at the expense of eliminating our services.

Response:

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

Concern (Unfavorable):

12. I. Unfavorable effects. 1) I would have to travel 17 miles more each time in going to the post office. 2) I mail special overnight sometimes which requires me to go to the post office. 3) The inconvenience of awaiting the mail carrier. II. The closing would severely impact the Town of Belk attracting new industries because new possible industrial plants would foresee our town as declining instead of growing. We have several industries in Belk presently. This would be an additional handicap in preserving their business properly. III. It was stated at the special meeting that the costs of operating the Belk Post Office was \$50,000 annually. The negatives impacting the continued growth of the Town of Belk would be substantial. An article in the local Fayette newspaper stated that new industry was definitely looking to locate in the Fayette or Fayette County area.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth. We are in receipt of your Belk Post Office Usage by Industries in Belk.

13. Concern (Unfavorable):

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I. We would have to drive 12 miles to mail a package or buy stamps. II. If the Belk Post Office is closed, the local residents would lose their postal boxes. This would mean that additional people and vehicles, gas would be required to deliver their mail from an outside community. Why not use that money to keep the community post office open? III. Discontinue putting all this 'art' work on stamps which I believe costs everyone money. Just print a stamp that says "Stamp 44c" and use the extra money from the reduced art work/printing setup to keep our post office open.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

14. I. We would have to travel at least 10 miles to Fayette to get our mail if we keep a PO Box. II. We have a lot of individuals that use the post office. Also a post office plus our train tracks could bring in more. III. We have used Belk Post Office every since we moved here. If we did a mailbox we would have to change all of our correspondence.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. There will be no change in customer addresses if the PO Box is retained.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

15. I. Will not be able to buy money orders from route delivery. Never know what time the carrier will be at the box. This makes it hard to buy stamps. II. Post Office is a place to meet old friends find out community and meet new neighbors that move in. III. With the price of gas, it will be a hardship on all the people to use Fayette Post Office.

**Response:**

The rural carrier provides all the services that are available at the Post Office with the exception of PO Box service and bulk mail acceptance. This includes stamp sales, package pick up, special services and money order sales. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town. 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

16. I. With the post office you can buy stamps and ship packages when you want, not having to wait for a set time and waiting on route mail person or driving to another post office

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further away and buying more gas which is high. II. It will hurt trying to get new business and will have a negative effect on present business. III. Closing small post offices that are doing well will not help save money it is just a ploy to show large numbers that won't save, but will look good.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

17. I. Belk is my nearest postal facility. If you close it, I will have to drive 4 or 25 miles to mail a package and buy supplies. I don't want to have to do it. I am handicapped. II. belk has businesses that need this post office. III. This post office keeps Belk on the map. Please leave it in place.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. 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 Community name and ZIP Code in addresses if you retain PO Box delivery.

**Nonpostal Concerns**

The following nonpostal concerns were expressed

**Concern (UnFavorable):**

1. I. Having the post office you get all information about mail service as it happens. It is nice to be able to do your business of getting stamps and mailing packages and be able to get all the rules from a person at the post office. II. Our business community will be affected by closing the post office. It will affect getting new companies to move here. III. Hopefully you will reconsider closing the post office here.

**Response:**

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always

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be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

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07/28/2011

MEMO TO THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Certification of the Record  
BELK  
Docket Number 1354484 - 35545

This certifies that all comments and documents enclosed in the attached record are originals, or true and correct copies of the originals.

WILLIAM MITCHELL  
District Manager

District: 354484 - 33343  
 Item No: 44  
 Page No: 1

**LOG OF POST OFFICE DISCONTINUANCE ACTIONS**

Office Name, State, ZIP Code: BELK, AL, 36545-2000  
 EAS Level: 11  
 District: ALABAMA PFC  
 County: FAYETTE  
 Congressional District: 4  
 Proposal:  Close  Consolidate  
 Reason For Proposed: retired  
 Alternate Service Proposed: Independent Post Office  
 Customers Affected:  
 Post Office Box: 84  
 General Delivery: 0  
 Rural Route: 0  
 Highway Contract Route (HCR): 0  
 City Route: 0  
 Intermediate Rural: 0  
 Intermediate HCR: 0  
 Total number of customers: 84

Date	Action
	Office suspended. Reason suspended: Suspension notice sent to Headquarters.
11/30/2008	Postmaster vacancy occurred. Reason: retired OIC: Career: 0 Noncareer: 1 Other Employees: 1
02/15/2011	District manager authorization to study.
04/01/2011	Questionnaires sent to customers. Number sent: 115 Number Returned: 58 Analysis: Favorable 0 Unfavorable 28 No Opinion 10
	Petition received. Number of signatures: 0 Concerns expressed:
05/23/2011	Congressional Inquiry received: Yes Concerns expressed: We have a lot of businesses here that depend on the post office and should be reason for it to stay open.
05/15/2011	Proposal and checklist sent to district for review.
05/05/2011	Government Relations and Retail Operations notified by district 10 days before the 60-day posting (PS Form 4920 attached).
05/18/2011	Proposal and invitation for comments posted and round-dated.
07/28/2011	Proposal and invitation for comments removed and round-dated. Comment Analysis: Favorable 0 Unfavorable 18 No Opinion 0 18
None	Premature PRC appeal received. Concerns expressed:
04/04/2011	Updated PS Form 4920 completed (if necessary).
07/28/2011	Certification of the official record.
07/29/2011	District transmittal of official record to vice president, Delivery and Retail, and copy of transmittal letter to vice president, Area Operations.
	Headquarters logged in official record (option entry).
	Record returned to district for additional consideration.
	Record returned as not warranted.
	Final determination posted at affected office(s) and round-dated.
	Final determination removed and round-dated.
	Postal Bulletin Post Office Change Announcement form sent to Headquarters.
	No appeals letter received from Headquarters.
	Appeal to PRC received.
	PRC opinion received on appeal: Affirmed: _____ Remanded: _____ USPS Withdrawn: _____
	Address management systems notified to updated AMS report.
	Discontinuance announced in Postal Bulletin No.: _____ Effective date: _____

Review Coordinator/person most familiar with the case:

CARLIJHA GOREE  
 Name/Title

(205) 521-0486  
 Telephone Number

CARLIJHA GOREE  
 District Post Office Review Coordinator

(205) 521-0486  
 Telephone Number

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07/29/2011

VICE PRESIDENT, DELIVERY AND POST OFFICE OPERATIONS  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
475 L'ENFANT PLAZA ROOM 5621  
WASHINGTON DC 20260-5621

SUBJECT: Official Record

Enclosed for your review and approval is the official record to discontinue the Belk Post Office.

All appropriate actions have been taken, and we have considered the concerns/comments of affected customers. The record has been thoroughly reviewed, and all necessary documentation is included. All documents in the record are numbered and contain docket and item numbers on each page and a chronological index of all documents in the record is included. Effective and regular service will be provided to community residents by permanently implementing the alternative service proposed.

Refer questions about this Post Office discontinuance to CARLIJHA GOREE, Post Office Review Coordinator, at (205) 521-0485 or Greg Conner Manager Post Office Operations.

STEVEN HERNANDEZ  
DISTRICT MANAGER  
PO BOX 906  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35201-0906

Enclosures:

One copy of record (<http://hqcsopps.usps.gov/public/dis/4G/P1354484.pdf>)  
Headquarters acknowledgment of receipt of official record (optional)  
Self-addressed envelope

cc: Vice President, SOUTHWEST Area (no enclosures)

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### Headquarters Acknowledgment of Receipt of Official Record

The official record to consolidate the BELK was received by 08/23/2011.  
Please contact the Headquarters coordinator at (816) 916-8315 or the address below for additional information regarding its status.

475 L'ENFANT PLAZA SW ROOM 6700  
WASHINGTON DC 20260-6700

Enclosure: (self-addressed envelope)

**\*Note:** The acknowledgment form is optional and to be used at the district's discretion. Please provide the following memorandum and a self-addressed return envelope if you wish to receive an acknowledgment of Headquarters receipt of the record.

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09/08/2011

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE/POSTMASTER  
Belk Post Office

SUBJECT: Letter of Instructions Regarding Posting of the Belk Post Office Final Determination  
Docket No. 1354484 - 35545

Please post in the lobby the enclosed final determination to close the Belk Post Office. The final determination must be posted in a prominent place from 09/08/2011 through close of business on 10/10/2011. It must be posted for at least 30 days and the first day does not count. Additionally, please take down the posted "Notice of Taking Proposal and Comments under Internal Consideration" and return to this office.

Round-date stamp the cover of the final determination on the date of posting and on the date of removal. Please send the final determination to me by close of business on 10/11/2011.

Additional copies of the final determination are enclosed. Provide them to customers upon request.

Also enclosed is the official record upon which this final determination is based. Customers may read it; however, they may not remove it from your office. When a customer requests a copy of the record, provide it upon payment of any fees prescribed in Administrative Support Manual. If you do not have photocopy equipment, take the customer's name, address and telephone number and contact the district for needed copies.

If there are any questions, please contact me at (205) 521-0485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carljha Goree".

CARLIJHA GOREE  
POST OFFICE REVIEW COORDINATOR  
PO BOX 906  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35201-0906

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Enclosures:  
Final Determination Official Record

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Date of Posting: 09/09/2011

Date of Removal: 10/10/2011

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FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE  
THE BELK, AL POST OFFICE  
AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE  
SERVICE BY INDEPENDENT POST OFFICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1354484 - 35546

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## I. RESPONSIVENESS TO COMMUNITY POSTAL NEEDS

The Postal Service is issuing the final determination to close the Belk, AL Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by independent post office under the administrative responsibility of the Fayette Post Office, located six miles away.

The postmaster position became vacant when the postmaster retired on November 30, 2009. 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: This facility is vacant. With the decline in mail volume and retail transactions, we will continue to provide effective and regular service through another independent post office.

The Belk Post Office, an EAS-11 level, provides service from 08:00 to 12:00 - 13:00 to 16:00 Monday - Friday, 08:30 to 10:30 Saturday and lobby hours of 24 hrs on Monday - Friday and 24 hrs on Saturday to 84 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 19 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 independent post office. Office receipts for the last 3 years were: \$26,528 ( 69 revenue units) in FY 2008; \$23,246 ( 61 revenue units) in FY 2009; and \$20,756 ( 54 revenue units) in FY 2010. There were one permit mailer(s) or postage meter customer(s).

On April 19, 2011, representatives from the Postal Service were available at to answer questions and provide information to customers. 65 customer(s) attended the meeting.

On April 01, 2011, 115 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers of the Belk Post Office. Questionnaires were also available over the counter for retail customers at the Belk Post Office. 38 questionnaires were returned. Responses regarding the proposed alternate service were as follows: 0 favorable, 28 unfavorable, and 10 expressed no opinion.

One congressional inquiry was received on May 23, 2011.

When this final determination is implemented, delivery and retail services will be provided by the Fayette Post Office, an EAS-20 level office. Window service hours at the Fayette Post Office are from 08:30 to 16:30, Monday through Friday, and 08:30 to 12:00 on Saturday. There are 119 post office boxes available.

Retail service is also available at the Kennedy Post Office an EAS-16 level office, located five miles away. Window service hours at Kennedy Post Office are from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday through Friday and 08:00 to 10:00 on Saturday. There are 99 post office boxes available for rent.

The proposal to close the Belk Post Office was posted with an invitation for comment at the Belk Post Office, Kennedy Post Office and Fayette Post Office from May 23, 2011 to July 24, 2011. The following additional concerns were received during the proposal posting period:

1. **Concern:** Customers felt the loss of a post office would have a detrimental effect on the business community  
**Response:** The customer expressed a concern about the detrimental affect the loss of the post office would have on the community. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the suspended Post Office community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the post office is discontinued.
2. **Concern:** Customers were concerned about the mail being blown away because door will not stay closed.  
**Response:** The customer expressed a concern about the mail being blown away. Please contact the administrative postmaster to determine the proper mailbox location and installation method that would help alleviate this concern. We want to assure you that our mission has not changed and that's to continue to provide excellent service to our customers.
3. **Concern:** This is the only Post Office you use.  
**Response:** While we do appreciate opinion about the proposed closing, we would like for you to visit our webpage at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), for other alternatives for your convenience, such as, Stamps by Mail, Click-N-Ship, and Carrier Pickup. We want to assure you that our mission has not changed and that's to continue to provide excellent service to our customers.

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4. **Concern:** This Post Office is needed.
- Response:** While we do appreciate your opinion about the proposed closing, we would like for you to visit our webpage at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), for other alternatives for your convenience, such as, Stamps by Mail, Click-N-Ship, and Carrier Pickup. We want to assure you that our mission has not changed and that's to continue to provide excellent service to our customers.
5. **Concern:** You need this Post Office.
- Response:** While we do appreciate opinion about the proposed closing, we would like for you to visit our webpage at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), for other alternatives for your convenience, such as, Stamps by Mail, Click-N-Ship, and Carrier Pickup. We want to assure you that our mission has not changed and that's to continue to provide excellent service to our customers.
6. **Concern:** You use this Post Office everyday
- Response:** While we do appreciate opinion about the proposed closing, we would like for you to visit our webpage at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), for other alternatives for your convenience, such as, Stamps by Mail, Click-N-Ship, and Carrier Pickup. We want to assure you that our mission has not changed and that's to continue to provide excellent service to our customers.
7. **Concern:** You use this Post Office everyday.
- Response:** While we do appreciate opinion about the proposed closing, we would like for you to visit our webpage at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), for other alternatives for your convenience, such as, Stamps by Mail, Click-N-Ship, and Carrier Pickup. We want to assure you that our mission has not changed and that's to continue to provide excellent service to our customers.
8. **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.
- Customers were concerned about having to travel to another Post Office for service. There are many businesses in our town that need everyday service for their business to prosper. They will suffer greatly if they don't have service. This will cost jobs that we need for the community to prosper. You will be making a mistake to adopt the proposal! We really need our service and our community needs the business it brings.
- Response:** 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at [usps.com](http://usps.com), or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.
9. **Concern:**
- Response:**
10. **Concern:** I. At our age if we have to travel any distance to get our mail that would be time consuming for us older people for some of us this is the only way to get our mail. II. It is convenient for older people and a good meeting place to see friends. III. Route service is not easy for this area. Its convenient for us to get our stamps, you can't mail large parcels and can't receive large packages.

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Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

11. Concern:

I. Closing would place hardship as the next closest post office is 12 miles away and the Belk Post Office is only four miles. With Gasoline prices on the rise it would be costly for us to drive the extra miles. II. Local businesses would have to use the post office eight miles away. III. Seems that additional travel would be created for the postal service for the county and town of Belk, AL.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

12. Concern:

I. I am co-owner of N&N Transport, Inc. This will affect our business by us not getting our mail early enough to deposit the checks the same day. II. There are several senior citizens in our community that rely on the Belk Post Office. III. Only one employee works at the Belk Post Office and she is not full time.

Response:

Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the administrative Post Office.

13. Concern:

I. I am on a Millport route but I use the Belk Post Office when I am going to Fayette on business. I don't use the Fayette Post Office because you have to stand in line and sometimes the waits are long. If I have to use the Post Office in Fayette I will probably just use UPS. II. I think a lot of the people who reside in Belk are probably elderly and this could cause a great expense and hindrance for them to have to use Fayette or Kennedy. III. There are several businesses in Belk that depend on the postal service.

Response:

The administrative Post Office serves a much larger community and has a heavier retail window workload. This concern has been brought to the attention of the administrative postmaster, window operations will be monitored to ensure that customers do not have an unreasonable wait to obtain services. The carrier can provide retail services, alleviating the need for customers to go to the Post Office for service. 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. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the

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community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

14. Concern:

I. I go to the post office as I need to. Without the post office, it would be a great inconvenience in travelling to Fayette or waiting on the postal carrier. II. It would definitely harm the image of Belk. If a new industry attempted to come to Belk, they would think that the town was losing its image of growth.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

15. Concern:

I. I work for a trucking company in Belk. We pick up our mail at 9:AM. Therefore we can deposit the checks before 2PM. This is necessary. The mail carrier doesn't come by the trucking company until after 1PM. This would be an inconvenience. II. There are three large businesses in Belk that use the post office there, as well as older people that will be inconvenienced by having to go to Fayette. III. We pick up mail in the morning and mail many invoices in the afternoon. This would cause us to have to drive to Fayette twice a day.

Response:

Carriers strive to provide service at approximately the same time on a daily basis, however mail volumes and weather conditions often effect delivery times. If you desire special services from the rural carrier you may leave a note in your mailbox instructing the carrier to sound his horn, and then meet the carrier to receive services. Retail services may also be obtained at the administrative Post Office. 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

16. Concern:

I. If we have to travel any distance to get our mail that would be an added expense and time consuming a problem for older people. II. Inconvenient for older people sometimes a meeting place. III. Route service is not very dependable in our area. Inconvenient for stamps and receiving larger parcels of mail not convenient for mailing large packages.

Response:

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town.

17. Concern:

I. It would make it very, very inconvenient. II. A profound effect on the community businesses and patrons. III. I believe the government should do all they can to keep the post office at Belk.

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**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

**18. Concern:**

I. The closing of the Belk Post Office will be hard for me and other Senior Citizens. We rely on the post office because it is close we can mail and not have to go a long way to do this. II. We have several business who have mail to mail everyday and it would be a hardship for them to travel to Fayette everyday for mailing purposes. They would probably go to Fed Ex and therefore the post office would lose business they need. III. You should consider stopping Saturday mail as many businesses do not work that day.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. We are currently requesting from Congress to stop Saturday mail delivery.

**19. Concern:**

I. The post office is very important to the area because of all the businesses of this area. We had a need for the post office before and the need still exist. II. It has a very important effect on the community because it would very seriously downgrade the town. III. I believe there are other ways to cut cost than at the expense of eliminating our services.

**Response:**

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

**20. Concern:**

I. Unfavorable effects. 1)I would have to travel 17 miles more each time in going to the post office. 2)I mail special overnight sometimes which requires me to go to the post office. 3)The inconvenience of awaiting the mail carrier. II. The closing would severely impact the Town of Belk attracting new industries because new possible industrial plants would foresee our town as declining instead of growing. We have several industries in Belk presently. This would be an additional handicap in preserving their business properly. III. It was stated at the special meeting that the costs of operating the Belk Post Office was \$50,000 annually. The negatives impacting the continued growth of the Town of Belk would be substantial. An article in the local Fayette newspaper stated that new industry was definitely looking to locate in the Fayette or Fayette County area.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided in the community. There is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular

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postal services. Based on information obtained by the Postal Service, it was determined that there has been minimal growth in the area in recent years. Carrier service will be able to accommodate future growth. We are in receipt of your Belk Post Office Usage by Industries in Belk.

21. **Concern:**

I. We would have to drive 12 miles to mail a package or buy stamps. II. If the Belk Post Office is closed, the local residents would lose their postal boxes. This would mean that additional people and vehicles, gas would be required to deliver their mail from an outside community. Why not use that money to keep the community post office open? III. Discontinue putting all this 'art' work on stamps which I believe costs everyone money. Just print a stamp that says "Stamp 44c" and use the extra money from the reduced art work/printing setup to keep our post office open.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

22. **Concern:**

I. We would have to travel at least 10 miles to Fayette to get our mail if we keep a PO Box. II. We have a lot of individuals that use the post office. Also a post office plus our train tracks could bring in more. III. We have used Belk Post Office every since we moved here. If we did a mailbox we would have to change all of our correspondence.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. There will be no change in customer addresses if the PO Box is retained.

23. **Concern:**

I. Will not be able to buy money orders from route delivery. Never know what time the carrier will be at the box. This makes it hard to buy stamps. II. Post Office is a place to meet old friends find out community and meet new neighbors that move in. III. With the price of gas, it will be a hardship on all the people to use Fayette Post Office.

**Response:**

The rural carrier provides all the services that are available at the Post Office with the exception of PO Box service and bulk mail acceptance. This includes stamp sales, package pick up, special services and money order sales. Residents may continue to meet informally, socialize, and share information at the other businesses, churches and residences in town. 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24.

24. **Concern:**

I. With the post office you can buy stamps and ship packages when you want, not having to wait for a set time and waiting on route mail person or driving to another post office further away and buying more gas which is high. II. It will hurt trying to get new business and will have a negative effect on present business. III. Closing small post offices that are doing well will not help save money it is just a ploy to show large numbers that won't save, but will look good.

**Response:**

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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. There

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Is no indication that the business community will be adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued.

25. **Concern:** I. Belk is my nearest postal facility. If you close it, I will have to drive 4 or 25 miles to mail a package and buy supplies. I don't want to have to do it, I am handicapped. II. Belk has businesses that need this post office. III. This post office keeps Belk on the map. Please leave it in place.
- Response:** 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. Stamps are also available at many stores and gas stations where customers may already shop, online at usps.com, or by calling 1-800-STAMP-24. 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. 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 Community name and ZIP Code in addresses if you retain PO Box delivery.
26. **Concern:** A mail carrier who drive a vehicle, are they paid by the hour or mile
- Response:** They are paid evaluated hours and by the mile for using their own we feel we can absorb the cost on the extra deliveries.
27. **Concern:** Are you going to consider the businesses we have when deciding our fate
- Response:** That will be in the official file and will be considered
28. **Concern:** Do you not think these carriers will complain about the added time it will take to weigh packages and give me receipts, that could take a few hours at the least
- Response:** The Rural Carriers routes are reevaluated each year and this will adjust time and mileage spent on the new deliveries
29. **Concern:** Does the fact that an office is losing money put in on the closing consideration list
- Response:** We can not use that as the sole reason for closing a post office
30. **Concern:** Have you ever looked into moving Kennedy to Belk
- Response:** I don't think so but I am not sure Belk has the room for the carriers from Kennedy
31. **Concern:** How are levels set for Post Offices
- Response:** Number of routes, deliveries and revenue
32. **Concern:** How often do you reevaluate the level of and office
- Response:** Usually when an office becomes vacant
33. **Concern:** I work in Fayette and go to the Post Office there and they do not have enough employees to do the work they have now. There is an hour or more wait time some days
- Response:** The MPOO will look into that
34. **Concern:** I worry about the security with our line service. I think there is a lot of waste in the Post Office
- Response:**

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- 35. **Concern:** If I have a package I would never get to the Fayette Post Office to pick it up, they are closed by the time I get off and I work on Saturday. Also the drive to Fayette is costly

**Response:** The customer would receive the package the same as now, if you get a PO Box at Fayette you will have 24 hour access to the PO Box in the lobby and they have parcel lockers for packages.
- 36. **Concern:** If I move my PO Box to Fayette they close at 4:00p.m., I usually go to Belk on Saturday but I don't want to go back into town on Saturday just to go to pick up my mail

**Response:** The customer would have two options, Go to the Fayette on Saturday or use the rural carrier for your mailing needs. The Rural Carrier is a Post Office on wheels.
- 37. **Concern:** If we all erect mail boxes at our homes it will cost the Post Office more in fuel to make the extra deliveries

**Response:** Fuel is one of our largest fixed cost, however the rural carrier drives by most of the houses on their route already so we expected the change to be minimal.
- 38. **Concern:** If we have to use the Fayette Post Office we will incur more expense.

**Response:**
- 39. **Concern:** If you do close the Belk Post Office, when would it close and would time be given to change all their address

**Response:** The process takes about 6-8 months from this point, if a determination is made to close this office there would be a final determination posted in the office for 30 days before the actual closing will take place.
- 40. **Concern:** If you go to Fayette will they extend the hours of operation to accommodate us

**Response:** No, but you will have lobby access to your PO Box 24 hours a day
- 41. **Concern:** If you move our Post Office to Fayette, you would have to expand the building to accommodate all our boxes.

**Response:** There may be some renovations, but there is ample room at the Fayette Post Office to accommodate the 84 boxes Belk currently has rented.
- 42. **Concern:** Instead of closing the Belk Post Office would you consider reduced hours of operation

**Response:** That is not in our proposal
- 43. **Concern:** Is the main reason you are closing the Belk office due to the fact we don't have routes and the volume

**Response:** Not having routes does make it easier to consolidate to another office
- 44. **Concern:** Is the Post Office hiring more people with less hours and benefits

**Response:** There is something through labor negotiations about that but right now the Post Office is not hiring
- 45. **Concern:** It is not feasible to put a box on the street it is dangerous

**Response:** We will look at maybe going down the drive for safety purposes
- 46. **Concern:** My parents are handicapped and not able to go to Fayette, and we do not have mail delivery down our road.

**Response:** We could extend the rural route to deliver mail down the road if there are 2 or more houses on the road.
- 47. **Concern:** One big thing is our industry growth, if they find out the Post Office is closing it may deter the growth.

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Response:

48. Concern: Our business depend on getting our mail early to make our deposits. If we have to go to Fayette we will have to pay someone to get our mail each day. Could you change the rural route delivery so we could get our mail earlier if we put up a box

Response: We can look at the line of travel and see if it is feasible

49. Concern: Our Industries are very strong and Kennedy doesn't have near what we do. The volume alone should be considered and take a stronger look at this, Millport to Fayette Most industries and employees are in Belk, Belk has a railroad. Losing the Belk Post Office would put a negative mark for more industries to come.

Response:

50. Concern: Please reconsider proposal we are blessed with businesses and industries in our community

Response:

51. Concern: So it is not necessarily the volume but because it is close to another higher classed Post Office

Response: Yes the distance to the nearest PO is a big factor

52. Concern: The Post Office doesn't control their own prices

Response: No, we have to ask the Postal Rate Commission for permission to raise the cost of postage. The price of a 1st class stamp has to remain below the CPI

53. Concern: Things may start disappearing if we move our mail to a box along side the road.

Response: That is a security issue and should be reported to the Postmaster and Inspection Services if it should happen.

54. Concern: This has been a long time coming you had to see it. Most companies have fat and 14% of your offices are making a profit. Some Post Offices look like the Taj Mahal, I don't understand why you would spend so much money building Post Offices like that.

Response: 3/4 of our Post Offices are leased, and we did build many Post Offices in the 90's when we had the revenue.

55. Concern: What can we do to get a rural route in Belk

Response: The 84 rented boxes would not be enough deliveries to form a rural route

56. Concern: What does it cost the Post Office to run a small office like Belk

Response: A ballpark figure would be around 50 to 80 thousand dollars, it depends on many factors.

57. Concern: What if something happen that it did cost more money that you thought to close the Belk Post Office, would you reopen it

Response: We can't answer that because we have not come across that situation as of yet, there is a financial study done in advance of the closing

58. Concern: What if there is only 1 house down a road does that mean I can not get mail delivery at my home

Response: We will go .5 miles in and .5 miles out, if the house is further than that down the road we will find a suitable place to put a box that is within that range.

59. Concern: What if you have something to sign for.

Response: In that case you would have to make arrangements to be there during business hours

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60. **Concern:** What time is the mail supposed to be up in the boxes at Fayette
- Response:** 9:30a.m.
61. **Concern:** Would they leave the blue box in front of the Post Office building for our outgoing mail
- Response:** No, but there is a possibility that one could be placed in another location in town
62. **Concern:** Wouldn't the move require more employees at the Fayette Post Office
- Response:** It would most likely not be warranted for 84 additional boxes
63. **Concern:** You are closing all these small offices because you are losing money to new technology, one day that technology will crash and then what will you do for a back up.
- Response:** Congress will have a plan in place if that should happen, but as a business we can't have everything the same as 100 years ago
64. **Concern:** You drew up a proposal do you consider businesses and industries in that proposal
- Response:** We do include that in the study

**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. 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.
4. A change in your PO Box Fees may be a result of this proposal.

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**

Belk is an incorporated community located in FAYETTE County. The community is administered politically by Mayor Town Council City Hall. Police protection is provided by the Fayette Sheriff Dept. Fire protection is provided by the Belk Volunteer Fire Dept. The community is comprised of all of the above make up the community and those who commute to work at nearby communities and may work in local businesses.

Businesses and organizations include: Belk Free Will Baptist Church, Beaver Creek Baptist, Carrolls Comet Music Corner Newman Specialized Carriers Lumber Remanufacturing N&N Trucking Newman Brothers Trucking N&N Transport V&J Trucking Robert Michael Trucking Bobby Newman Trucking N7N Lumber & Supply Owl Creek Newman Properties Georgia Pacific Koch Industries Belk Barber Shop Expressions by Amy Belk Quick Stop & Consignment RPW Woodworks Waynes Welding Belk Water System. Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and services.

Nonpostal services provided at the Belk Post Office will be available at the Fayette Post Office. Government forms normally provided by the Post Office will also be available at the Fayette 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:

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1. Concern:

I. Having the post office you get all information about mail service as it happens. It is nice to be able to do your business of getting stamps and mailing packages and be able to get all the rules from a person at the post office. II. Our business community will be affected by closing the post office. It will affect getting new companies to move here. III. Hopefully you will reconsider closing the post office here

Response:

Businesses generally require regular and effective postal services, and these will always be provided to the community. Since the suspension of service, there has been no indication that the business community has been adversely affected. Questionnaire responses revealed that customers will continue to use local businesses if the Post Office is discontinued. Most new businesses moving to the community do not depend on the location of a Post Office, but on the provision of effective and regular postal services. Carrier service will accommodate future growth.

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 retired on November 30, 2009. 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 \$ 44,279 with a breakdown as follows:

Postmaster Salary (EAS-11, No COLA)	\$ 33,168
Fringe Benefits @ 33.5%	\$ 11,111
Annual Lease Costs	+ \$ 0
<b>Total Annual Costs</b>	<b>\$ 44,279</b>
Less Annual Cost of Replacement Service	- \$ 0
<b>Total Annual Savings</b>	<b><u>\$ 44,279</u></b>

V. OTHER FACTORS

The Postal Service has identified no other factors for consideration.

**VI. SUMMARY**

This is the final determination to close the Belk, AL Post Office and provide delivery and retail services by independent post office under the administrative responsibility of the Fayette Post Office, located six miles away.

The postmaster retired on November 30, 2009. 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 workload has declined. Effective and regular service will continue to be provided by independent post office.

The Belk Post Office provided delivery and retail service to 84 PO Box or general delivery customers and no delivery route customers. The daily retail window transactions averaged 19. There are one 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 \$44,279 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 Belk Post Office, Kennedy Post Office and Fayette Post Office during normal office hours.
- B. Appeal Rights. This final determination to close the Belk 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 20288-0001. 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 Belk Post Office, Kennedy Post Office and Fayette Post Office during normal office hours.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dean J Granholm  
 Vice President of Delivery and Post Office Operations

09/07/2011  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

DocId: 1354484 - 35545  
 Item Nbr: 50  
 Page Nbr: 1

## Postal Bulletin Post Office Change Announcement Form Final Determination 30-Day Posting Dates

### Post Office Final Determination Posting Dates\*

Date posted: 09/08/2011  
 Date removed: 10/10/2011  
 No. of days posted: 32

Actual discontinuance date:  
 Official discontinuance date:  
 (Headquarters entry):

**Note:** Unless otherwise stated, the official discontinuance date listed in the Postal Bulletin is the first Saturday that falls 60 days after the final determination is posted. For a community Post Office, classified station, or classified branch, the discontinuance date is 60 days after the Headquarters approval date.

#### BEFORE CHANGE POST OFFICE INFORMATION

Post Office  
 Name and State: BELK, AL  
 ZIP Code: 35545-2000 Finance no: 010640  
 County: FAYETTE  
 Type of discontinuance:  
 Consolidate ( ) Close (X)

**Type of discontinued facility**  
 Post Office (X)  
 Classified Station ( ) Branch ( )  
 Community Post Office (CPO) ( )

Coordinator name: CARLIJHA GOREE  
 Telephone: (205) 621-0485

#### AFTER CHANGE POST OFFICE INFORMATION

Administrative  
 Post Office: FAYETTE  
 ZIP Code: 35666-2306 Finance no: 012990  
 County: FAYETTE  
 Original name retained? Yes (X) No ( )  
 New last line of customer address is:  
 BELK AL,35545

**Type of replacement service**  
 Post Office ( ) Route (X)  
 Classified Station ( ) Branch ( )  
 Contract Unit ( ) Community Post Office (CPO) ( )

Date:  
 (Location) District: ALABAMA PFC

The announcement cannot be made in the Postal Bulletin unless this form is submitted to the above address. Do not send directly to Address Management, Postal Service Headquarters.

**Mailing Instructions for CPO/classified station/classified branch discontinuance.** Immediately submit three copies of this announcement form to the above address. For nonsuspended offices, enclose a copy of the letter sent to customers notifying them of the discontinuance.

For more information, call (202) 268-5083.  
 Headquarters entry: ( ) TL ( ) HS

\*Final determination posting is not required for CPO, classified station, or classified branch discontinuance.  
 Final determination for an independent Post Office must be posted for at least 30 days.

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09/23/2011

DISTRICT MANAGER  
ALABAMA PFC  
PO BOX 906  
BIRMINGHAM, AL, 35201-0906

ATTENTION: Post Office Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Announcement of Appeal to the Discontinuance of the  
BELK, 35545-2000 Docket No. 1354484 - 35545

This is to advise you that an appeal to the final determination to discontinue the BELK has been filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission. The Headquarters managing counsel, legal policy and ratemaking office, will provide you with copies of all pleadings, notices, orders, briefs, and opinions filed in the appeal proceeding.

In accordance with the Postal Operations Manual, please ensure that a copy of these documents, as well as the final determination, are prominently displayed and made available for inspection by the public at the affected Post Offices until the Commission has issued its final order and opinion. The Postal Regulatory commission has up to 120 days (four months) to consider the appeal and issue its decision.

No final action may be taken until the final decision has been made and you have received written notification of that decision along with appropriate instructions.

This memorandum must be filed in the official record.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Romero at (916) 373-8315.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Kevin Romero  
Manager Field Performance West

cc:  
Vice President, Area Operations SOUTHWEST Area  
Government Relations and Public Policy

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Submitted 9/23/2011 1:30:10 PM  
Filing ID: 76037  
Accepted 9/23/2011

Docket No. A2011-82

**Postal Regulatory Commission**  
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

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

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 22, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Belk post office located in Belk, Alabama. The petition for review was filed by Ronald Waldrop, Mayor on behalf of the Citizens of the Town of Belk (Petitioner) and is postmarked September 13, 2011.

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 October 7, 2011.



Ruth Ann Abrams  
Acting Secretary

Date: September 23, 2011

Attachment

A 2011-82

Received

SEP 19 2011

Office of PAGR

Town of Belk  
Box 195  
Belk, Alabama 35545  
Telephone 205-932-9292

DOCKET NO. 1354484-35545  
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PAGE 3

RECEIVED

2011 SEP 22 P 1:32

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 13, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave. NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Belk and its businesses, I want to appeal the decision to close the Post Office in Belk scheduled for closing, November 19, 2011.

The Town of Belk has over twenty businesses within its boundaries and police jurisdiction. The citizens of our Town would be forced to drive approximately 15 to 20 miles for service that we now have now with the Post Office in Belk.

I shall be grateful for your immediate response.

Sincerely,



Ronald Waldrop

Mayor

rw

A2011-82

Received

SEP 19 2011

Office of PAGR

Town of Belk  
Box 195  
Belk, Alabama 35545  
Telephone 205-932-9292

DOCKET NO. 12E4484-35615  
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RECEIVED

2011 SEP 22 P 1:32

September 13, 2011

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Ave. NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Belk and its businesses, I want to appeal the decision to close the Post Office in Belk scheduled for closing, November 19, 2011.

The Town of Belk has over twenty businesses within its boundaries and police jurisdiction. The citizens of our Town would be forced to drive approximately 15 to 20 miles for service that we now have now with the Post Office in Belk.

I shall be grateful for your immediate response.

Sincerely,  
*Ronald Waldrop*  
Ronald Waldrop  
Mayor

rw

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Submitted 9/27/2011 3:47:47 PM  
Filing ID: 76140  
Accepted 9/27/2011



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U.S. POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Office of the Secretary

September 27, 2011

Ronald Waldrop, Mayor  
Town of Belk  
P.O. Box 195  
Belk, Alabama 35545

Re: Appeal of the Postal Service's Determination to Close the Belk Post Office,  
Belk, Alabama

Dear Mr. Waldrop:

The Postal Regulatory Commission received your appeal regarding the Postal Service's determination to close the Belk post office in Belk, Alabama. Your appeal has been assigned Docket No. A2011-82.

A copy of Commission Form 61 is enclosed. You may complete Form 61 or file a brief to provide the Commission with arguments to support your appeal. See 39 CFR 3001.115. The deadline for submission of your arguments is October 27, 2011.

Sincerely,

  
Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Enclosure

*Participant Statement*

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRELY BEFORE  
FILLING OUT THE ENCLOSED  
"PARTICIPANT STATEMENT"**

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**APPEALS OF POSTAL SERVICE DETERMINATIONS  
TO CLOSE OR CONSOLIDATE POST OFFICES**

**INTRODUCTION**

Congress statutorily requires the Postal Service to follow specific procedures and consider certain factors before making a Final Determination to close or consolidate a post office. The law gives any patron the right to appeal the Postal Service's final determination to the Postal Regulatory Commission, ("PRC" or "Commission"), an independent agency which is not affiliated with the Postal Service. When a patron appeals a Postal Service Final Determination, the PRC must decide whether the Postal Service's closure or consolidation of a post office is consistent with the law.

To assist the Commission in its consideration of an appeal of the Postal Service's decision to close or consolidate your post office, you may want to send a written statement explaining why you believe the Commission should reverse the Final Determination and return the entire matter for further consideration. Enclosed, please find a *Participant Statement* form that you may use to present your written argument.

**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION AUTHORITY**

With respect to appeals of Postal Service Final Determinations to close or consolidate a post office, the Commission is limited to "appellate jurisdiction." As a result, the Commission cannot conduct its own fact-finding investigation and must consider appeals based solely upon the record which consists of the Proposal, Final Determination and other documents the Postal Service collected during closure or consolidation consideration. Postal Service regulations require that a copy of the record be available at the affected post office for thirty (30) days after the Final Determination is posted. After the initial posting period, Postal Service employees will have information on how a copy of the record may be obtained.

Limitations on the Commission's authority prohibits it from returning a Final Determination to the Postal Service simply because the Commission believes a different result might be better. Rather, the PRC may only examine the Postal Service's decision and record in order to determine whether the Postal Service abided by the statutory guidelines. Specifically, the law requires that the Commission affirm the Postal Service's Final Determination unless the determination is:

- (A) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion or otherwise not in accordance with the law;

## Participant Statement

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- (B) without observance of procedure required by law; or
- (C) unsupported by substantial evidence on the record.

Furthermore, the Commission may not change the Postal Service's Final Determination. It may only (1) affirm the decision or (2) remand the entire matter to the Postal Service for further consideration.

AUTHORITY OF POSTAL SERVICE

In keeping with its responsibility to operate the nation's mail system, the Postal Service has been given considerable authority over the operations of post offices; this authority includes the power to decide whether an office should be closed or consolidated. However, before reaching a decision to close or consolidate a post office, the Postal Service must follow a procedure set up by law as well as consider specific factors involved in such an action.

PROCEDURE

The law sets out the steps the Postal Service must take before it closes or consolidates a post office. Specifically, the Postal Service, prior to making a determination . . . as to the necessity of the closing and consolidation of any post office, shall provide adequate notice of its intention to close or consolidate such post office *at least sixty (60) days prior to the proposed date of such closing or consolidation* to persons served by such post office to insure that that such persons will have an opportunity to present their views.

The Postal Service calls its "notice of its intention to close or consolidate" the "Proposal." As noted above, the proposal must be posted for sixty (60) days. During the sixty (60) days, patrons are invited to give the Postal Service their comments on the proposed closing or consolidation. The Postal Service calls its determination to close or consolidate the "Final Determination." Any determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office shall be in writing and shall include the findings of the Postal Service with respect to the considerations required to be made. Such determination and findings shall be made available to persons served by such post office. The Postal Service shall take no action to close or consolidate a post office *until sixty (60) days after its written determination is made available to persons served by such post office.*

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

In addition to following the required procedure, the Postal Service must also consider certain factors.

The Postal Service, in making a determination whether or not to close or consolidate a post office, shall consider:

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- (A) the effect of such closing or consolidation on the community served by such post office;
- (B) the effect of such closing or consolidation on employees of the Postal Service employed at such office;
- (C) whether such closing or consolidation is consistent with the policy of the Government . . . that the Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining;
- (D) the economic savings to the Postal Service resulting from such closing or consolidation; and
- (E) such other factors as the Postal Service determines are necessary.

### PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

We have included a form that you may use for your written argument. The purpose of the Participant Statement is the same a formal brief which is to point out issues that you believe that Commission should consider in its review of the Postal Service's actions. You may file a Participant Statement as a formal brief. General examples of some issues that would be proper to include would be:

1. That the Postal Service did not consider certain issues it is required to consider;
2. The facts relied on by the Postal Service have not been established;
3. The Postal Service did not follow the procedure required by law; or
4. The facts is the Postal Service's final determination are true, but they do not prove what the Postal Service says they prove.

The Participant Statement should be as specific as possible.

In reviewing Postal Service determinations to close or consolidate post offices, Commission proceedings can be much less formal than is customary in courts. The Commission does not require patrons appealing Postal Service decisions to meet the usual format requirements for filed documents. No technical formalities are required. However, it is important that papers sent to the PRC are legible. It is also important for statements to be clear and as specific as possible.

The due date for a Participant Statement or brief can be found in the schedule which is attached as an Appendix to the "Notice and Order of Filing of Appeal." You should have a copy of the Notice and Order. If you do not, you should be able to find a copy posted at the post

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office. Under its rules, the Commission expects to receive briefs on the day specified in the schedule, rather than receiving briefs that are simply postmarked by that day.

**FILING THE PARTICIPANT STATEMENT OR BRIEF**

Address the Participant Statement or brief to:

Office of the Secretary  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

Please include the PRC Docket Number on your Statement and any other papers you send to the Commission concerning the case.

Participant Statement

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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In the Matter of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Post Office                      State                      ZIP Code

Docket No: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ post office. The Final Determination was posted \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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[The body of the page contains approximately 25 horizontal lines, which are mostly blank or contain very faint, illegible text.]

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Submitted 9/26/2011 2:48:38 PM  
Filing ID: 76079  
Accepted 9/26/2011

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;  
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;  
Tony L. Hammond; and  
Nanci E. Langley

Belk Post Office  
Belk, Alabama

Docket No. A2011-82

NOTICE AND ORDER ACCEPTING APPEAL AND  
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued September 26, 2011)

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(d), on September 22, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Belk post office in Belk, Alabama. The petition was filed by Ronald Waldrop, Mayor on behalf of the Town of Belk (Petitioner) and is postmarked September 13, 2011. The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5) and establishes Docket No. A2011-82 to consider Petitioner's appeal. If Petitioner would like to further explain its position with supplemental information or facts, Petitioner may either file a Participant Statement on PRC Form 61 or file a brief with the Commission no later than October 27, 2011.

Docket No. A2011-82

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*Category of issues apparently raised.* Petitioner contends that the Postal Service failed to consider the effect of the closing on the community. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(I).

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than the one set forth above, or that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues. The deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record with the Commission is October 7, 2011. See 39 CFR 3001.113. In addition, the due date for any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is October 7, 2011.

*Availability; website posting.* The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participants' submissions also will be posted on the Commission's website, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission's website is available online or by contacting the Commission's webmaster via telephone at 202-789-6873 or via electronic mail at [prc-webmaster@prc.gov](mailto:prc-webmaster@prc.gov).

The appeal and all related documents are also available for public inspection in the Commission's docket section. Docket section hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday, except on Federal government holidays. Docket section personnel may be contacted via electronic mail at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

*Filing of documents.* All filings of documents in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a) at the Commission's website, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is obtained. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be found on the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission's docket section at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at 202-789-6846.

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The Commission reserves the right to redact personal information which may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

*Intervention.* Persons, other than Petitioner and respondent, wishing to be heard in this matter are directed to file a notice of intervention. See 39 CFR 3001.111(b). Notices of intervention in this case are to be filed on or before October 21, 2011. A notice of intervention shall be filed using the Internet (Filing Online) at the Commission's website unless a waiver is obtained for hardcopy filing. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a).

*Further procedures.* By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5). A procedural schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. As required by the Commission rules, if any motions are filed, responses are due 7 days after any such motion is filed. See 39 CFR 3001.21.

*It is ordered:*

1. The Postal Service shall file the applicable administrative record regarding this appeal no later than October 7, 2011.
2. Any responsive pleading by the Postal Service to this Notice is due no later than October 7, 2011.
3. The procedural schedule listed below is hereby adopted.
4. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Mallin Moench is designated officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public.

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5. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this Notice and Order in the *Federal Register*.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

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## PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

September 22, 2011	Filing of Appeal
October 7, 2011	Deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record in this appeal
October 7, 2011	Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading
October 21, 2011	Deadline for notices to intervene ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.111(b))
October 27, 2011	Deadline for Petitioner's Form 61 or initial brief in support of the petition ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(a) and (b))
November 16, 2011	Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(c))
December 1, 2011	Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(d))
December 8, 2011	Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument; the Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.116)
January 11, 2012	Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule ( <i>see</i> 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5))