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Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

2011 OCT 12 A 4: 03

OCT 12 2011

In the Matter of:

LANGSTON, AL 35755
Post Office State ZIP Code

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No: A 2011-73

DONALD J HAHN, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the LANGSTON, AL post office. The Final Determination was posted AUG 23, 2011 (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.

SEE ATTACHED

ATTACHMENT TO DOCKET No. A2011-73

I have attached a copy of my appeal letter where my initial points were made.

The postal service indicated only Langston Al, Jackson County as the service area. The service area includes Marshall County also with unincorporated communities of Kirbytown, Five Points and Wakefield; an area that exceeds Langston proper.

The postal service listed one church in Langston, leaving out South Sauty Baptist, Haygood United Methodist and MT Moria Community Church.

The postal service listed listed a few businesses, leaving off Wakefield Grocery, Wakefield Volunteer Fire Dept, and Fisherman's Landing.

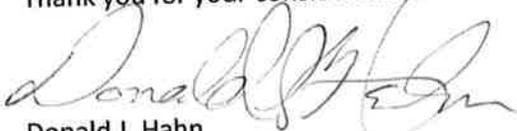
These locations are in Marshall County, much farther from Scottsboro that the postal service indicated.

This information as a supplement to the original appeal supports the contention that the postal service was arbitrary and capricious in its approach and decision to close the Langston post office. They had a report prepared for closure of all small post offices and changed the names for the location in question. That is why the report indicated a location 300 miles away that we could travel to and get good service.

The postal service has indicated only a 6,101 additional cost for replacement service without any detail. It would seem that the additional time spent in other offices, mileage, more rural boxes, and the use of all the carrier services that the report indicates the carrier will deliver needs to be more carefully evaluated. Overtime or additional carriers may be needed as this area grows.

The effect on the community has been discounted by the postal service. The report is full of "may". This service may be available, this could be done and the carrier can do all this. If the carrier needs to do all the services the report says she can, she is going to need a lot more time. She is going to carry a lot more cash, and the postal service is recommending that the residents leave cash in the mail boxes for the carrier to pick up for services. In a rural community where many cannot see their mailbox, this is not going to happen. The postal service indicates such closings will keep rates low. It is going to cause customers to look to other services.

Thank you for your consideration.


Donald J. Hahn

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August 31, 2011

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW, Ste 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Subject: Docket #1369838-35755 Appeal of Closure.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have obtained a copy of the final determination to close the Langston AL post office and find it contains incorrect information and makes no reference to additional information provided at the community meeting. At that meeting the postal service representatives presented an attitude that the decision had already been made, and they did not care what we had to say. From the quality of the written response this premise is supported.

On the first page under #1 it is indicated that service is available in Scottsboro, AL and Grant AL only nine miles away. The post office in Scottsboro is 19 miles away from my home, and Grant is 33 miles away. The repeated response to most questions was that services can be obtained from the letter carrier. In order to get those services we need to contact the post office to arrange for other than routine services (if they will answer the telephone). Our local office always answers the telephone. Scottsboro AL has poor access, limited parking and poor customer service. People come from Scottsboro and Section AL to Langston's post office because of the customer service provided.

Non postal concerns on the second page commented on the customer service issue by saying we could get friendly service at the Atmore Post office, which is 300 miles away.

They may be correct that we need to go that far for friendly, efficient service; but I do not want to.

The community meeting presented a statement that the person who owned the building would be willing to reduce the lease expense to keep the post office. The response was that the postal workers had nothing to do with the leases, but they would take that into consideration. They did nothing but indicate lease savings based on the annual amount paid. Is the lease month to month, or is it long term and the post office must pay until the lease expires? If so, than that savings cannot be counted.

Information about a permanent site 150 lot camp ground currently selling or two property developments with homes being built which was presented by a Langston Councilmember was not even mentioned in the report.

The financial analysis for closing appears to be misleading. There has been no postmaster for 18 months. Relief people who receive no benefits at all have been staffing this post office. It seems that this staffing cost plus the revenue vs. the increased cost of delivery would make this facility profitable to the postal service. Since the lease cost may or may not be a factor.

In conclusion, it appears that the figures and decision was pre-made and nothing the citizens presented was considered. Our travel hardship, the fact that we need to get cash somewhere to pay the mail carrier if we can arrange service, the potential growth in our area and the lack of quality service available in the larger, miles away post offices were really not considered.

I respectfully request that you reconsider this final determination based on its selective presentation of information favorable to closing without a corresponding analysis of the quality of service available in the area; and the repetitious canned answers to the residents of Langston's valid concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,

Donald J Hahn