

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

IN THE MATTER OF:
FREISTATT POST OFFICE
FREISTATT, MISSOURI 65654

Docket No. A2013-8

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO
ORDER NO. 1791
(August 1, 2013)**

The Postal Service hereby files its response to Commission's request for supplemental information contained in Order No. 1791, issued on July 24, 2013. The request is stated verbatim, and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
By its attorneys:

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1. Petitioner contends that, following the emergency suspension of service at the Freistatt post office on March 29, 2013, mail was not delivered to customers in Freistatt for 76 days until Cluster Box Units (CBUs) were installed, and during that interim, customers were obligated to drive 16 miles roundtrip to pick up their mail. Petitioner at 2. The Postal Service is requested to address this contention and, if applicable, to explain the delivery service provided to customers in Freistatt subsequent to the suspension of service at the Freistatt post office until such time as the CBUs were installed.

RESPONSE:

As stated in the Notice of Emergency Suspension customer letter, following the emergency suspension of service at Freistatt Post Office, general delivery mail was available for pick up at Monett Post Office, located approximately nine miles from the Freistatt Post Office. This method of service continued until cluster box units (CBUs) were accessible to customers on June 11, 2013.

The reasons behind the 74 day period between when services at the Freistatt Post Office were emergency suspended and the delivery of mail to the CBUs are two-fold. First, the Postal Service needed permission to build CBUs from the Village of Freistatt. When negotiations to renew the lease ended, the Postal Service met with representatives from the Village of Freistatt on March 21, 2013, and requested permission to build CBUs in the village so that delivery would not be interrupted. The Village of Freistatt initially denied the request. There were no other viable locations to build CBUs in Freistatt but on village property. On March 29, when Freistatt Post Office was placed under emergency suspension, the Village of Freistatt contacted the Postal Service and granted permission to build CBUs. On April 11, 2013, the Village of Freistatt signed a land lease to permit the Postal Service to build the CBUs at 105 East Third Street.

Second, the Postal Service needed to follow its own internal policies and procedure for planning, approving and constructing CBUs. Due to the size of the project, plans for construction necessitated a review and approval from Facilities. Facilities approved the plans on June 5, 2013. The contract for construction was signed on June 6, 2013. Concrete for the CBU pad was poured on June 7, 2013. On June 10, 2013, Postal Service Area Maintenance Technicians installed the CBUs and collection box. Rural carriers began delivering mail to the CBUs on June 11, 2013.

This chronology indicates that the Postal Service endeavored to provide customers the effective and regular service following the emergency suspension of services at Freistatt Post Office. Due to necessity of obtaining approval, first from the Village of Freistatt and then from the Facilities Department, the CBUs were constructed in a timely manner.