

Before the
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Rate Adjustment Due to Extraordinary or
Exceptional Circumstances

Docket No. R2013-11

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS CONCERNING
REMOVAL OF THE EXIGENT SURCHARGE

(March 16, 2016)

On February 25, 2016, the Postal Service filed its notice of removal of the exigent surcharge.¹ The Commission provided until March 16, 2016 to submit comments addressing the consistency of the prices and product descriptions attached to the Postal Service's Notice with the prices and product descriptions in the attachment to Order No. 2472, and any other relevant issues concerning the Postal Service's filings.²

Confirmation of the proposed rates was a relatively straightforward matter for the vast majority of rates. The Public Representative calculated the surcharges for each rate cell by taking the difference between the pre-exigent rates and the rates in effect immediately following approval of the exigent surcharge. The calculated surcharges were then subtracted from the rates currently appearing in the Mail Classification Schedule to develop the new rates with the surcharges removed. These rates were compared with the proposed rates appearing in Attachment A to the Postal Service's

¹ Notice of the United States Postal Service of Removal of the Exigent Surcharge, February 25, 2016 (Notice).

² Order No. 3103, Notice and Order on Removal of Exigent Surcharge, February 26, 2016 (Order No. 3103); *see also* Docket No. R2015-4, Order on Revised Price Adjustments for Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services Products and Related Mail Classification Changes, May 7, 2015 (Order No. 2472).

Notice. In almost every instance, it was confirmed that the proposed new rates were properly derived.

There were several instances of FSS related rate structure changes and instances of splitting Carrier Route and 5-Digit categories. These rates were not directly verified. However, it appears that the surcharges were properly removed.

The removal of the surcharges applied to the postcards category of First-Class Mail, Outbound Single-Piece First-Class Mail International could not be confirmed. It is possible that an intervening docket changed rates for this service and this was not accounted for by the Public Representative. The Public Representative urges the Commission to independently review the proposed rates for this service.

With the minor exception mentioned above, the Commission should allow the new rates to take effect as planned.

Respectfully submitted,

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