



Postal Regulatory Commission

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001
www.prc.gov

Phone: 202-789-6829
Fax: 202-789-6891

Contact: Gail Adams
gail.adams@prc.gov

Press Release

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PRC ADOPTS A FAST TRACK PROCESS FOR ADVISORY OPINIONS ON NATIONWIDE SERVICE CHANGES

Washington, DC – Today the Postal Regulatory Commission introduced modernized rules to respond to Postal Service requests for Advisory Opinions on major changes to postal services. Under these new rules, the Commission would seek to issue future advisory opinions in 90 days or less while still meeting the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. The Commission will balance the expedited review of such requests with opportunities that continue to ensure meaningful public participation.

The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 requires the Postal Service to file a request with the Commission for an Advisory Opinion on major changes to postal services within a “reasonable” time period before instituting the changes, 39 U.S.C. 3661. Under the new rules, the Commission self-imposes a 90-day time frame from the date the Postal Service files its request for issuance of an Advisory Opinion. Due process is preserved by providing the public an opportunity to fully participate, ask questions, and provide comments.

Chairman Ruth Y. Goldway said the new rules are one of several processes the Commission is undertaking to improve the efficiency of its regulatory framework. “The Commission recognizes that the Postal Service has had to make swift adjustments to its mail network to modernize and adjust its operations to more fully reflect the needs of the nation in the 21st Century. By the Service’s own acknowledgement, the Advisory Opinion process is important to the way they make those changes. We have performed due diligence by seeking public comment before implementing these new rules; and we believe 90 days is a reasonable time frame for the Commission to hear from the public, address their concerns, and issue an opinion that allows the Postal Service to adjust its plans in accordance with our advice.”

Commission [Order No. 2080](#) outlines the final rules of procedure for N-cases. The rules will take effect 30 days after publication of the Commission’s order in the *Federal Register*.

The Postal Regulatory Commission is an independent federal agency that provides regulatory oversight over the U.S. Postal Service to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Postal Service and foster a vital and efficient universal mail system. The Commission is comprised of five Presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Commissioners, each serving terms of six years. The Chairman is designated by the President. In addition to Chairman Goldway, the other Commissioners are Vice Chairman Mark Acton, and Commissioner Robert Taub.