

Postal Regulatory Commission

Postal Regulatory Commission
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Docket Opened for Postal Service's Competitive Rate Filing

Washington, DC – The Postal Regulatory Commission today established Docket CP2008-3, to receive comments on postal rate changes for competitive products filed by the U.S. Postal Service. As with the market dominant rate increases filed with the Commission on February 11, 2008, the competitive rate changes are scheduled to take effect on May 12, 2008.

Competitive products include Priority Mail, Expedited Mail, Bulk Parcel Post, and Bulk International Mail.

The Commission developed and issued final regulations for competitive and market dominant ratemaking systems on October 29, 2007, nearly eight months before the statutory deadline of June 20, 2008, established by the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA). Regulations for competitive products provide the public with 15 days to comment on whether the new rates are consistent with statutory requirements. Commission regulations require that there are no cross-subsidies of competitive products by market dominant products; that each competitive product recover its attributable costs; and that competitive products, as a group, pay their share of institutional costs, which the Commission set at 5.5 percent.

Interested persons will have until March 27, 2007, to file comments with the Commission, after which the Commission will determine whether the filing complies with the PAEA. Commission Chairman Dan G. Blair appointed Paul Harrington to represent the interest of the public in this proceeding.

“The PAEA gave the Postal Service significant new pricing flexibility for its competitive product lines. To balance this, Congress empowered the Commission to develop a public process to provide transparency in pricing and ensure accountability,” said Chairman Blair.

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The Postal Regulatory Commission is an independent federal agency 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 Blair, the other Commissioners are Ruth Goldway, Tony Hammond, and Mark Acton