

Press Release

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**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
ORDER GRANTING COALITION OF CATALOG MAILERS' MOTION
FOR LATE INTERVENTION; DENYING COALITION OF CATALOG
MAILERS' MOTION TO REOPEN THE RECORD
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKET NO. R2006-1**

April 27, 2007

Washington, DC – The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) today issued an Order on two procedural motions affecting reconsideration of the rates for Standard Mail flats. The Commission grants the late notice of intervention filed by the Coalition of Catalog Mailers (CCM) but denies CCM's motion to reopen and supplement the record. Today's Order establishes an expedited procedural schedule to resolve the remaining issues in this case. The Commission's Order may be found on the PRC website, www.prc.gov, under *Daily Listing, April 27, 2007*.

Dan G. Blair, chairman of the Commission, said, "Although the Commission ruled to keep the record closed, we encourage parties and interveners, such as CCM, to present briefs with arguments based on the current evidence in the record."

"CCM's request to reopen the record would likely prolong the process significantly and unfairly require parties that had participated in the case to expend additional resources," Blair noted, pointing to the Order which states, "... reopening the record will most likely

take this case well into late summer or early fall which would run contrary to the stated goal of CCM – to obtain ‘transitional rate relief’ – since the rates in question are scheduled to go into effect on May 14, 2007.”

Background and Summary

On February 26, 2007, the Commission issued its recommended decision in Docket No. R2006-1, the most recent omnibus rate case. On March 19, 2007, the Governors of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) endorsed the Commission’s rate recommendations with three limited exceptions, Standard Mail flat rates, Priority Mail Flat Rate Box and First-Class Mail nonmachinable letter surcharge. On March 29, 2007, the Commission issued an Order establishing procedures for further consideration of these issues and invited comments from interested parties with a deadline of April 12, 2007 for initial comments and April 19, 2007 for reply comments on the issues returned by the Governors. These deadlines were suspended, pending the resolution of CCM’s procedural motions.

In filing comments and reply comments on the reconsideration of Standard Mail flats, the participants are invited to comment on the following:

- Ordinarily, postal rates are viewed as a zero sum situation. That is, if certain rates are reduced, other rates must increase to offset the loss in revenue. If the Commission were to decide that Standard Mail flats rates were too high and that adjustments were necessary, specifically,
- a. which particular rate cells should be reduced, by how much, and why;
 - b. which particular rate cells should be increased, by how much, and why.