

Date of issuance: May 19, 2003.
Effective date: As of the date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

Amendment Nos.: Unit 1–152 ; Unit 2–140.

Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–76 and NPF–80: The amendments revised the Technical Specifications.

Date of initial notice in Federal Register: October 1, 2002 (67 FR 61685). The Commission's related evaluation of the amendments is contained in a Safety Evaluation dated May 19, 2003.

No significant hazards consideration comments received: No.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of June, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. MC2003–2; Order No. 1373]

Experimental Parcel Return Services

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice and order.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice that the Postal Service has filed a request with the Commission seeking an expedited decision approving a two-year experiment testing bulk parcel return services. It briefly describes the proposal, which focuses primarily on the customer-to-merchant segment of retail transactions. The notice also addresses related terms and conditions, proposed rates, and eligibility for participation in the experiment. It identifies conference dates and deadlines for certain procedural steps in the initial stages of this case.

DATES: 1. June 18, 2003: notices of intervention, requests for a hearing, and comments on experimental status.

2. June 24, 2003: (optional) comments on discovery-related deadlines.

3. June 25, 2003: prehearing conference (2 p.m.).

4. June 27, 2003: responses to conditional motion for waiver of certain filing requirements.

ADDRESSES: Submit documents electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system, which can be accessed at <http://www.prc.gov>. Settlement and prehearing conferences will be held in the Commission's

hearing room, 1333 H Street NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202–789–6818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 28, 2003, the Postal Service filed a request seeking a recommended decision approving an experimental change in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS) to establish rate categories, including rates and fees, for certain parcels and bound printed matter that are returns from customers to merchants.¹ The request, which includes six attachments, was filed pursuant to chapter 36 of the Postal Reorganization Act, 39 U.S.C. 3601 *et seq.*²

In contemporaneous filings, the Postal Service requests expedited consideration of its proposal, including establishment of settlement procedures,³ and a conditional motion for waiver of the filing requirements.⁴ The Postal Service's request for expedition is in addition to that generally available under the Commission's experimental rules [39 CFR 3001.67–3001.67d]. The request, accompanying testimony of witnesses Gullo (USPS–T–1), Eggleston (USPS–T–2), Kiefer (USPS–T–3), and Wittnebel (USPS–T–4), and other related material are available for inspection in the Commission's docket room during regular business hours. They also can be accessed electronically, via the Internet, on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>).

I. Proposed Parcel Return Services

The Postal Service proposes an experimental bulk parcel return service applicable to merchandise returned as either Parcel Post or Bound Printed Matter (BPM) mail. Collectively, the experimental changes are referred to as Parcel Return Services, comprised of Parcel Select Return Service (PSRS) and

Bound Printed Matter Return Service (BPMRS). Witness Kiefer sponsors the proposed rates and classifications. See USPS–T–3. The proposed rates are based on workshare savings for returned parcels retrieved in bulk by shippers (or their agents) at designated delivery units or bulk mail centers.

PSRS adds two rate categories to the Parcel Post subclass, Parcel Select Return Delivery Unit (RDU) and Parcel Select Return Bulk Mail Center (RBMC). The proposed RDU rate for mail retrieved in bulk at delivery units is \$2.00 per parcel. The proposed RBMC rates for parcels retrieved in bulk at the first BMC they reach range between \$0.86 and \$1.51 below the non-workshared rates for regular-sized parcels.⁵ *Id.* at 2.

BPMRS adds one rate category to the BPM subclass, Bound Printed Matter Bulk Mail Center (RBMC). Similar to Parcel Select Return Service, the RBMC rate is applicable to BPM parcels retrieved in bulk at the first BMC they reach. The proposed rates are \$0.24 below the non-workshared BPM rates. *Id.*; see also Request at 2.⁶

Witness Kiefer's proposed rates are based on cost data supplied by witness Eggleston. See USPS–T–2. The Postal Service indicates that the cost avoidance measures underlying its proposed rates are estimated using the same cost base supporting the Commission rate recommendations in Docket No. R2001–1. In addition, the Postal Service states that the proposed experiment will not materially affect its overall revenues. Request at 2–3.

In support of its proposal, the Postal Service also submits the testimony of witness Gullo (USPS–T–1), who describes the proposed Parcel Return Services products, and witness Wittnebel, who discusses, from a mailer's perspective, the processing of returns and the benefits associated with the experiment (USPS–T–4).

Experimental designation. By designating its proposal as experimental, the Postal Service seeks consideration of its Request under rules 67–67d. The Postal Service suggests that these rules are appropriate as they contemplate review of proposed experimental classifications in the absence of historical data that normally underlie requests for permanent classification changes. While acknowledging that it lacks data about the potential response to the

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for a Recommended Decision on Experimental Parcel Return Services, Docket No. MC2003–2, May 28, 2003 (Request).

² Attachment A contains the proposed classification schedule provisions; attachment B sets forth the proposed rate and fee schedules; attachment C contains the certified financial statements for the years ending September 30, 2001 and September 30, 2002; attachment D is the certification required by Commission rule 54(p); attachment E is an index of testimonies; and attachment F is the statement addressing compliance with various filing requirements.

³ United States Postal Service Request for Expedition and Establishment of Settlement Procedures, May 28, 2003 (Request for Expedition).

⁴ Statement of the United States Postal Service Concerning Compliance with Filing Requirements and Conditional Motion for Waiver, May 28, 2003 (Conditional Motion).

⁵ Nonmachinable RBMC Parcel Post mail is subject to nonmachinable surcharges. See proposed DMCS 521.7.

⁶ BPM mailers are eligible for RDU service and rates if they so choose.