



Fact Sheet on Closing Postal Service Retail Facilities -- The Role of the Postal Regulatory Commission

The Postal Service has advised the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) that it will examine approximately 3,200 postal stations and branches nationwide for possible closure or curtailment and that an additional 1,600 stations and branches could likewise be reviewed depending on the outcome of the initial examination.

The PRC has established Docket N2009-1 to provide a public hearing and issue an advisory opinion on the national service implications of the Postal Service's "Station and Branch Optimization and Consolidation Initiative."

- The PRC does NOT determine whether post offices should be closed or not.
- The United States Postal Service makes ALL such decisions.
- The PRC will review the process the Postal Service uses to make such decisions to ensure that adequate service levels are maintained.
- The review is currently on-going.
- The PRC is obtaining public input on what factors should be considered, and how.
- The PRC will advise the Postal Service on whether that process is well designed to achieve results consistent with national policy.
- If the Postal Service decides to close a post office, that decision may be appealed to the Postal Regulatory Commission.
- On appeal, the PRC may set aside a decision to close a post office found to be:

Unsupported by substantial evidence on the record;

Not made in accordance with established procedures; or

Arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law.