



Procedural Overview of the Advisory Opinion Process

The law requires the Postal Service to seek an advisory opinion for changes that “generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis.” A notice and a pre-filing conference are parts of the process the Postal Service must follow when submitting its plan to the Commission.

The main steps in the advisory opinion process are listed below.

- To seek important public input, the Commission requires the Postal Service to hold at least one pre-filing conference and make a good faith effort to address the concerns of interested persons. The Postal Service must give at least ten day’s advance notice before the first scheduled pre-filing conference. (USPS held this pre-filing conference on N-2024-1 on September 5, 2024)
- The Commission published notice of the pre-filing conference in the Federal Register and appointed Ping Gong, a Commission employee (Public Representative), to represent the interests of the general public. [Order No. 7414](#). [OBJ:OBJ]
- Following the conference, the Postal Service must file the formal request for an advisory opinion with the Commission at least 90 days before implementing any of the proposed changes. This formal request must certify that the Postal Service has made good faith efforts to address the concerns raised at the pre-filing conference and meet other content requirements. The Commission received a formal request on October 4, 2024.
- After the Postal Service files its request for an advisory opinion with the Commission, the Commission will set forth a procedural schedule and provide further information in a [notice and order](#) that will be published in the Federal Register.
- The Commission is required by law to consider the Postal Service’s request for an advisory opinion. Before issuing its advisory opinion, the Commission must provide an opportunity for a formal, on-the-record hearing.

The Commission's final opinion is advisory in nature. The law does not give the Commission authority to prohibit or alter service changes. As a result, the Postal Service is not required to implement or take any further action on the Commission's opinion.

- To participate in the formal advisory opinion proceeding, you must comply with the Commission's rules of practice under eCFR Title 39, Part 3020. All material filed with the Commission shall be transmitted in electronic format using the Filing Online system available over the Internet through the Commission's website. To file materials online, follow the directions in the [eFiling User Guide](#).
 1. How to set up an account: Page 24 – Account creation requires name, email, phone number and password.
 2. How to submit a filing: Page 33 – Instructions for how to upload a document (PDF of your submission).
- Interested persons who do not want to file a formal brief may file Statements of Position with the Commission sharing their views.

All Statements of Position must include:

1. Name & Address
2. Date
3. Reference: Statement of Position in the United States Post Office's Request for an Advisory Opinion, N2024-1
4. Content: a clear, concise, and definitive statement of the position of the filing participant as to the Postal Service request, as well as any points or factors in the existing record that support the participant's position. Statements of Position shall be limited to the existing record and shall not include any new evidentiary material.

The full regulations governing advisory opinions can be viewed at: [eCFR Title 39, Part 3020](#)

About the Postal Regulatory Commission

The Commission is a separate and independent regulatory agency which consists of five presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed bipartisan Commissioners, joined by a staff of experts in law, economics, statistics, and accounting, among other disciplines.

The Board of Governors of the Postal Service, which consists of nine independent governors, the postmaster general, and the deputy postmaster general, is a separate body. The Board of Governors is in charge of Postal Service operations. The postmaster general reports to the independent governors, who are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.