

Postal Regulatory Commission

Postal Regulatory Commission
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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION SCHEDULES THREE PUBLIC FIELD HEARINGS ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION AND THE POSTAL MONOPOLY

Washington, DC – The Postal Regulatory Commission will hold three public field hearings beginning May 21, 2008, in Flagstaff, Arizona, to solicit views relating to the universal service obligation of the U.S. Postal Service and the postal monopoly.

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA) requires the Commission to report to the President and Congress by December 19, 2008, on universal postal service and the postal monopoly in the United States, including the monopoly on mail delivery and access to mailboxes. In addition to consulting with the Postal Service and other federal agencies, the Commission is directed to hear from commercial mailers, postal service competitors, and the general public. Congress mandates that the report focus on: geographic scope; product offerings; access to facilities and services; the frequency of delivery, rates and affordability, and quality of services.

The first hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, at 2:00 pm, in the Flagstaff City Hall. The second hearing will be held on June 5, 2008, at 10:00 am, at City Hall in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the third hearing will be in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on June 19, 2008, at 2:00 pm, at City Hall. The Commission will also hold a public workshop on June 12, 2008, at 10:00 am, in Washington, D.C.

“Congress tasked the Commission with providing a comprehensive review of the universal service obligation and the postal monopoly. Our hearings will elicit views of the public’s expectations for the American postal system,” said Dan G. Blair, chairman of the Commission.

“We held similar field hearings last year in conjunction with the development of new postal ratemaking systems and service standards, also required by the PAEA,” said Blair. “The upcoming hearings and workshop will build on that experience. Hearing from the public contributes greatly to the Commission’s universal service obligation and postal monopoly study,” Blair said.

All hearing testimony, hearing transcriptions, and replies to the Commission’s notice for public comment will be available on the Commission’s website at www.prc.gov, under Docket No. PI2008-3.

The following witnesses are scheduled to testify at the Flagstaff hearing: Don Rowley, Publisher, Arizona Daily Sun; Larry James, District Manager, Arizona District, U.S. Postal Service; Merle Baranczyk, publisher, Mountain Mail, Salida, Colorado; Stephanie Lerdahl, rural letter carrier, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Cameron Powell, Vice President, Strategic Development, Earth Class Mail, Jan Pritchard, The Flute Network; and Matthew Panos, Vice President, Ministry Partnerships and Resources, Food for the Hungry.

Additional information on the hearings may be obtained from Ann Fisher, Commission Chief of Staff, (202) 789-6803 or Ann.Fisher@prc.gov.