

Press Release

June 19, 2009

PRC Adopts Final Rules on Confidentiality of Non-public Materials

Washington, DC – The Postal Regulatory Commission today adopted final rules on the treatment of non-public materials provided to the Commission by the United States Postal Service and other parties. [Order no. 225](#) is available on the Commission’s website, www.prc.gov, and has been submitted to the *Federal Register*.

The final rules meet statutory standards established in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act to accord appropriate confidentiality for Postal Service materials and to provide similar protections for third-parties.

“The Commission sought to strike a balance between the public’s right to know and the need to ensure appropriate protections for commercially sensitive information,” said Chairman Dan G. Blair. “By adopting these new rules, the Commission establishes the framework for achieving this balance.”

Among provisions in Order 225 are rules that cover:

- Scope of materials the Commission may require of the Postal Service or a third party
- Data and information requests by the Commission to the Postal Service or a third party
- Submission of non-public materials and requests for confidentiality thereof
- Access, use and disclosure of non-public materials
- Sanctions for violation of protective provisions

“Non-public materials” are generally defined as any document, information, or thing filed with the Commission and claimed exempt from disclosure under applicable sections of the United States Code by the Postal Service or protected from disclosure under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) by a third party with a proprietary interest in the materials.

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