



BAC 7710-FW-P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. R2015-5; Order No. 2664]

International Mail Contract

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing concerning a Type 2 rate adjustment and the filing of a related negotiated service agreement with Hongkong post. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* September 14, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Contents of Filing
- III. Commission Action
- II. Ordering Paragraphs

I. Introduction

On August 13, 2015, the Postal Service filed a notice, pursuant to 39 CFR 3010.40 *et seq.*, announcing a Type 2 rate adjustment to improve default rates established under the Universal Postal Union Acts.¹ The Notice concerns a bilateral agreement with Hongkong Post (Agreement) that the Postal Service contends is similar to the prior Hongkong Post 2014-2015 Agreement that the Commission included within the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product in the market dominant product list of the Mail Classification Schedule.²

II. Contents of Filing

The Postal Service's filing consists of the Notice, two attachments, and redacted and unredacted versions of an Excel file with supporting financial

¹ Notice of United States Postal Service of Type 2 Rate Adjustment, and Notice of Filing Functionally Equivalent Agreement, August 13, 2015, at 1(Notice).

² *Id.* at 1, citing Docket No. R2014-4, Order No. 1981, Order Approving an Additional Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement (with Hongkong Post), January 29, 2014, at 8.

workpapers. Notice at 1-2. Attachment 1 is an application for non-public treatment of material filed under seal with the Commission. *Id.* at 1. Attachment 2 is a redacted copy of the Agreement. *Id.* The Postal Service includes a redacted version of the financial workpapers with its filing as a separate public Excel file. *Id.* at 1-2.

The Postal Service states that the intended effective date of the Agreement is October 1, 2015; asserts that it is providing at least the 45 days advance notice required under 39 CFR 3010.41; and identifies the parties to the Agreement as the United States Postal Service and Hongkong Post, the postal operator for Hong Kong. *Id.* at 2-3.

Reporting requirements. 39 CFR 3010.43 requires the Postal Service to submit a detailed data collection plan. In lieu of a special data collection plan for the Agreement, the Postal Service proposes to report information on the Agreement through the Annual Compliance Report. *Id.* at 5-6. The Postal Service also invokes, with respect to service performance measurement reporting under 39 CFR 3055.3(a)(3), the standing exception in Order No. 996 for all agreements filed in the Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 product grouping.³

Consistency with applicable statutory criteria. The Postal Service observes that Commission review of a negotiated service agreement addresses

three statutory criteria under 39 U.S.C. 3622(c)(10), whether the agreement: (1) improves the Postal Service's net financial position or enhances the performance

³ *Id.* at 6, citing Docket No. R2012-2, Order Concerning an Additional Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement, November 23, 2011, at 7 (Order No. 996).

of operational functions; (2) will not cause unreasonable harm to the marketplace; and (3) will be available on public and reasonable terms to similarly situated mailers. *Id.* The Postal Service asserts that it addresses the first two criteria in its Notice and that the third is inapplicable, as there are no entities similarly situated to Hongkong Post in terms of their ability to tender broad-based small packet flows from Hong Kong. *Id.*

Functional equivalence. The Postal Service addresses reasons why it considers the Agreement functionally equivalent to the China Post 2010 Agreement filed in Docket No. R2010-6.⁴ The Postal Service asserts that it does not consider that the specified differences detract from the conclusion that the Agreement is functionally equivalent to the baseline China Post 2010 Agreement. Notice at 9.

III. Commission Action

The Commission, in conformance with rule 3010.44, establishes Docket No. R2015-5 to consider issues raised in the Notice. The Commission invites comments from interested persons on whether the Agreement is consistent with 39 U.S.C. 3622 and the requirements of 39 CFR part 3010. Comments are due no later than September 14, 2015. The public portions of this filing can be accessed via the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>).

⁴ *Id.* at 7; *see also* Docket Nos. MC2010-35, R2010-5, and R2010-6, Order No. 549, Order Adding Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators 1 to the Market Dominant Product List and Approving Included Agreements, September 30, 2010.

Information on how to obtain access to non-public material appears in 39 CFR part 3007.

The Commission appoints James F. Callow to represent the interests of the general public (Public Representative) in this docket.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. R2015-5 for consideration of matters raised by the Postal Service's Notice.

2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, James F. Callow is appointed to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

3. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than September 14, 2015.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Ruth Ann Abrams,

Acting Secretary.

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