This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 2026-11-17 and available online at https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-23363, and on https://govinfo.gov

7710-FW-P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

39 CFR part 3050

[Docket No. RM2027-3; Order No. 9796]

Periodic Reporting

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Commission is acknowledging a recent Postal Service filing requesting the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding to consider changes to analytical principles relating to periodic reports. This document informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: Comments are due November 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at *https://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. Proposal
III. Notice and Comment
IV. Ordering Paragraphs

I. Introduction

On November 6, 2026, the Postal Service filed a petition pursuant to 39 CFR 3050.11 requesting that the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding to consider changes to analytical principles relating to the Postal Service's Priority

Mail transportation model.[1] The Petition proposes replacing sample data from the Origin-Destination Information System—Revenue, Pieces, and Weight (ODIS-RPW) with Product Tracking and Reporting (PTR)[2] data to measure Priority Mail weight and volume by origin-destination ZIP Code pair. Petition, Proposal at 1. The Postal Service states that it is not seeking to change the underlying conceptual methodology of the current Priority Mail model but only looking to change one data source. *Id.*

The Postal Service also filed a supporting folder under seal containing model outputs and the proposed change's effect on unit costs by zone.[3] The Postal Service states that the folder contains commercially sensitive information similar to information reported in Library Reference USPS-LR-NP27 in its *Annual Compliance Report*. Petition at 1. The Postal Service therefore adopts by reference its application for non-public treatment filed in Docket No. ACR2025.[4]

II. Proposal

Background. The Postal Service contends that PTR should replace ODIS-RPW because PTR provides more complete data, considering the ODIS-RPW sample reduction approved in Commission Order No. 9449 took effect in FY 2026, Quarter 4.[5] The Postal Service notes that, in Docket No. RM2021-3, it

---

[1] Petition of the United States Postal Service to Initiate a Proceeding to Change Analytical Principles, November 6, 2026 (Petition). The proposed change is attached to the Petition (Proposal).

[2] PTR stores tracking data for all barcoded packages and extra services, delivering real-time updates to customers. PTR captures tracking events continuously from label creation to final delivery, aggregating data from a variety of sources including mailer data, handheld scanners, retail terminals, and mail processing equipment. United States Postal Service, PostalPro, Product Tracking and Reporting (PTR), https://postalpro.usps.com/product-tracking-and-reporting.

[3] *See id.*; Library Reference USPS-RM2027-3-NP1, November 6, 2026.

[4] *See* Docket No. ACR2025, United States Postal Service, FY 2025 *Annual Compliance Report*, December 29, 2025, Attachment 2.

[5] *See* Petition, Proposal at 1; Docket No. RM2021-3, Order on Analytical Principles Used for Periodic Reports Concerning Revenue, Pieces, and Weight Methodology, February 9, 2026 (Order No. 9449).

identified PTR as a potential alternative source for determining the percentages of mail transported by air "to and from the offshore location."[6] Following approval of the changes proposed in that docket, the Postal Service now considers it appropriate to use PTR for the relevant portions of the Priority Mail transportation model." Petition, Proposal at 4.

The current model uses ODIS-RPW sample data for two principal purposes.[7] First, it distributes Alaska, Hawaii, and Air Taxi costs by zone. Second, it estimates the portions of Priority Mail involving ground-air or air-ground connections and the portion of Zone 1 mail classified as Intra-SCF. Petition, Proposal at 2. The Postal Service states that the current model pulls ODIS-RPW data from the origin-destination ZIP (ODZIP) file which identifies the origin-destination ZIP3 pairs in the sample and reports the corresponding Priority Mail weight and volume for the fiscal year. *Id.* Although the Postal Service considers the existing sample large, it states that reducing the sample size will increase statistical variance. *Id.*

Proposal and rationale. The Postal Service proposes replacing the ODIS-RPW-based ODZIP dataset with a more complete PTR dataset because PTR covers the relevant population-level census data, rather than a statistical sample, thereby eliminating sampling variance in the reported weights and volumes. *Id.* at 3. The Postal Service asserts that PTR data will be more representative of all Priority Mail, providing mail piece data for more ODZIP3 pairs. *Id.*

---

[6] *See* Petition, Proposal at 2; Docket No. RM2021-3, Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-7 of Chairman's Information Request No. 2, April 19, 2021, question 4.d.

[7] Docket No. ACR2025, Library Reference USPS-FY25-NP27, December 29, 2025, Excel file "FY2025 PMTransportationCostModel.xlsx."

Impact. The Postal Service asserts that it sees changes in the weights by zone for Alaska, Hawaii, and Air Taxi networks because they rely on inputs from the ODIS-RPW sample data. *Id.* at 4. For highway-related inputs to the Transportation Cost Model workbook, the Postal Service reports a 0.87-percentage-point increase in the share of distance-related ground transportation costs associated with ground-to-air or air-to-ground connections. *Id.* It also reports a 7.41-percentage-point increase in the share of Local and Zone 1 weight attributable to Intra-SCF mail.[8] The Postal Service asserts that "[t]hese shifts are a result of the PTR data having more complete coverage of all ZIP3 combinations relative to the ODIS-RPW sample data." Petition, Proposal at 4.

The Postal Service concludes that replacing ODIS-RPW sample data with census data from PTR results in an improvement in the quality, accuracy, and completeness of the Priority Mail transportation model and has minimal impact on the final unit cost by zone. *Id.* at 5.

III. Notice and Comment

The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2027-3 for consideration of matters raised by the Petition. More information on the Petition may be accessed via the Commission's website at *https://www.prc.gov.* Interested persons may submit comments on the Petition and the Proposal no later than November 27, 2026. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Annette Morin is designated as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding. The Public Representative does not represent any individual person, entity or particular point of view, and, when

[8] *Id.*; Library Reference USPS-RM2027-3-NP1, Excel file "PMail Model Output Comparison.xlsx."

Commission attorneys are appointed, no attorney-client relationship is established.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2027-3 for consideration of the matters raised by the Petition of the United States Postal Service to Initiate a Proceeding to Change Analytical Principles, filed November 6, 2026.

2. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than November 27, 2026.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Annette Morin to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

4. This Order, or abstract thereof, will be published in the **Federal Register.**

By the Commission.

Danielle LeFlore,

Legal Assistant.

[FR Doc. 2026-23363 Filed: 11/16/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 11/17/2026]