

MAIL PROCESSING FACILITY REVIEWS AND “GO EAST / GO WEST” INITIATIVE

Paul V. Hogrogian, National President



Dear Members: The Postal Service continues to aggressively roll out and implement its new, more comprehensive Network Redesign plan. The centerpiece of the Network Redesign project is the establishment of Regional Processing and Distribution Centers (RPDCs) in approximately 60 metropolitan areas throughout the country. These RPDCs will consolidate all originating letters, flats, and parcels and all destinating parcels from all mail processing facilities within a metropolitan area into one mega-processing center. Most of the processing plants from which originating mail will be taken would continue to process destinating letters and flats and would be renamed Local Processing Centers (LPCs).

The USPS has announced that the initial RPDC sites are (all subject to change):

1. Sandston (Richmond), VA
2. North Houston, TX
3. Atlanta, GA
4. Charlotte, NC
5. Chicago, IL
6. Santa Clarita, CA
7. Indianapolis, IN
8. Portland, OR
9. Jacksonville, FL
10. Boise, ID
11. Oklahoma City, OK
12. Phoenix, AZ
13. Royal Palm, FL
14. Greensboro, NC

The Postal Service has notified the Union that the Santa Clarita, Oklahoma City and Royal Palm RPDCs are all now “on hold” indefinitely. The Union was also notified that the Greensboro RPDC was being “redesigned” for increased package capacity. The roll out of the Atlanta, Houston and Richmond RPDCs has not gone smoothly to say the least. There were major delays in processing mail in all 3 RPDCs. On-time service performance for first-class mail in Richmond fell to 65%, a 20% reduction. In Houston, on-time performance fell to 71%, well below the national rate. The RPDC in Palmetto, GA (Atlanta) has also experienced major mail delays. During a recent meeting of the USPS Board of Governors, the Postmaster General conceded that the USPS is “failing to meet service expectations” in Richmond, Atlanta, and Houston, but expects service in these areas to stabilize by this summer.

The Postal Service has also announced what it calls “Mail Processing Facility Reviews” (MPFR) for approximately 60 more sites. The Postal Service has determined that there is a need to consolidate some mail processing operations from these facilities into other processing centers. The following are some of the targeted facilities:

- Provo
- Bethlehem
- Minneapolis
- Scranton
- Trenton
- Columbia, Mo
- Wilmington
- Springfield, Mo
- South Jersey
- Tacoma
- Lehigh Valley
- Yakima

- Wenatchee
- Champaign
- Missoula
- Peoria
- Knoxville
- Lubbock
- El Paso
- Midland
- Fayetteville
- Abilene
- Dakota Central
- Brockton
- Bismarck
- Burlington
- Grand Forks
- Casper
- Bemidji
- Charleston
- Cheyenne
- White River Junction
- North Platta
- Fresno
- Grand Junction
- Reno
- Buffalo
- Gulfport
- Charleston, WV
- Quad Cities
- Johnston
- Waterloo
- Eastern Maine
- Iron Mountain
- Fort Myers
- Sioux Falls
- Manchester

While some consolidations may make sense, others do not. The original concept was to centralize mail processing among facilities in a metropolitan area within a 50-mile radius. The Postal Service’s plans, in some instances, have extended much further than that, often exceeding 100 miles, sometimes exceeding 200 miles. We have and will continue to argue to the Postal Service that they must reevaluate the situation, reconsider some of these plans and implement a more reasonable and rational plan. The Postal Service has also been in too much of a hurry to implement their plans, which often results in

mistakes being made and in unnecessary delays. It seems as though, at times, they do not know what they are doing, but they are in a hurry to do it.

Many Representatives in Congress have voiced their opposition to the Mail Processing Facility Reviews. At least four separate bills have been introduced in Congress to stop the consolidations until service performance improves. A bi-partisan group of 26 Senators signed a letter to pause all changes to the delivery network until the Postal Regulatory Commission reviews the proposed changes. Ron Stroman, a member of the Board of Governors and former Deputy Postmaster General, called on the Service to slow down

to change. The National Office will provide updates on this project as we receive more information.

The NPMHU will ensure that the Postal Service complies with all the provisions of our National Agreement especially those contained in Article 12 which are designed to keep all dislocation and inconvenience to Mail Handlers to an absolute minimum when implementing these plans.

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The Postal Service has also continued to implement a pilot program called the "Go East/Go West" initiative. The ambitious pilot program would create

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network changes until service scores improve and have "gotten close to our service targets for 2024."

There are also concerns on how all these changes in the network would affect the upcoming elections.

In response to all of this, Postmaster General DeJoy announced that there will be a pause in the movement of processing operations associated with the Mail Processing Facility Reviews until at least January of 2025. The Postmaster General also said that he would consider asking the PRC for an advisory opinion.

It is worth repeating that these plans are extremely fluid and subject

Regional Hubs to which originating sites would send jackpotted mail for the designated region. The Postal Service envisions the East/West Initiative as a possible replacement for the Service Transfer Centers (STCs). The Regional Hubs (subject to change) would be:

1. Atlanta/Seminole (Southeast)
2. NJINDC/Philadelphia NDC (Northeast)
3. Denver (West)
4. West Valley (Southwest)
5. Salt Lake City/SF NDC (Northwest)
6. Memphis (Southeast)

7. Indianapolis (Midwest)
8. Charlotte (South)
9. Dallas (Potential Site)
10. Omaha/Kansas City (Potential Sites)

Current origin sites include Detroit, Harrisburg, Northwest Rochester, Memphis MPA, San Francisco P&DC, San Jose, Oakland, Santa Clarita, Salt Lake City ASE, Sacramento, West Valley, San Diego, Moreno Valley, South Houston, Richmond, Los Angeles P&DC, Industry, Anaheim, Atlanta RPDC, Akron, Indianapolis, Albuquerque, Portland, Seminole, Denver, Philadelphia NDC, Greensboro NDC, Washington DC NDC, Jacksonville NDC, NJ NDC, Springfield MA, Middlesex-Essex, and Ybor City. The Postal Service continually adds more and more origin sites.

I, along with CAD Manager Teresa Harmon and CAD Representative Tom Ruther, will be visiting the East/West operation in Indianapolis to see first-hand how the operation functions and its potential impact on mail processing and the Mail Handler craft.

The pilot is still in its initial planning stages and much more information will be forthcoming. The National Office will provide updates on this project once we receive more information.

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I remain confident that through the work of our Contract Administration Department and our legal representatives, and through the hard work of our Regional, Local, and Branch representatives, we can successfully meet all challenges that lie before us.

Fraternally,



Paul V. Hogrogian
National President