

After the Postal Service files the administrative record and the Commission reviews it, the Commission may find that there are more legal issues than those set forth above, or that the Postal Service's determination disposes of one or more of those issues. The deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record is within 15 days after the date on which the petition for review was filed with the Commission. See 39 CFR 3001.113. In addition, the due date for any responsive pleading by the Postal Service is also within 15 days after the date on which the petition for review was filed with the Commission.

**Availability; Web site posting.** The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its Web site at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participant's submissions also will be posted on the Web site, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission's Web site is available online or by contacting the Commission's Webmaster via telephone at (202) 789-6873 or via electronic mail at [prc-webmaster@prc.gov](mailto:prc-webmaster@prc.gov).

The appeal and all related documents are also available for public inspection in the Commission's docket section.

Docket section hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except on Federal government holidays. Docket section personnel may be contacted via electronic mail at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at (202) 789-6846.

**Filing of documents.** All filings of documents in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a) at the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is obtained. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be found on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>, or by contacting the Commission's docket section at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at (202) 789-6846.

Commission reserves the right to redact personal information which may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

**Intervention.** Persons, other than the Petitioners and respondents, wishing to be heard in this matter are directed to file a notice of intervention. See 39 CFR 3001.111(b). Notices of intervention in this case are to be filed on or before January 23, 2012. A notice of intervention shall be filed using the Internet (Filing Online) at the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>.

[www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov), unless a waiver is obtained for hardcopy filing. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a).

**Further procedures.** By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5). A procedural schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. As required by Commission rules, if any motions are filed, responses are due 7 days after any such motion is filed. See 39 CFR 3001.21.

*It is ordered:*

1. The procedural schedule listed below is hereby adopted.
2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Pamela A. Thompson is designated officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public.
3. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this notice and order and Procedural Schedule in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.  
**Shoshana M. Grove,**  
Secretary.

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| November 30, 2011 ..... | Filing of Appeal.   |
| December 15, 2011 ..... | Deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record in this appeal.  |
| December 15, 2011 ..... | Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading.  |
| January 23, 2012 .....  | Deadline for notices to intervene (see 39 CFR 3001.111(b)).   |
| January 4, 2012 .....   | Deadline for Petitioners' Form 61 or initial brief in support of petition (see 39 CFR 3001.115(a) and (b)).   |
| January 24, 2012 .....  | Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service (see 39 CFR 3001.115(c)).   |
| February 8, 2012 .....  | Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs (see 39 CFR 3001.115(d)).   |
| February 15, 2012 ..... | Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument; the Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings (see 39 CFR 3001.116). |
| March 16, 2012 .....    | Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5)).   |

[FR Doc. 2012-77 Filed 1-6-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. A2012-94; Order No. 1082]

**Post Office Closing**

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document informs the public that an appeal of the closing of the Alvord, Iowa post office has been filed. It identifies preliminary steps and provides a procedural schedule. Publication of this document will allow

the Postal Service, petitioners, and others to take appropriate action.

**DATES:** January 25, 2012, 4:30 p.m., Eastern Time: Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service. See the Procedural Schedule in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for other dates of interest.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically by accessing the "Filing Online" link in the banner at the top of the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>) or by directly accessing the Commission's Filing Online system at <https://www.prc.gov/prc-pages/filing-online/login.aspx>. Commenters who cannot submit their views electronically

should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section as the source for case-related information for advice on alternatives to electronic filing.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, at (202) 789-6820 (case-related information) or [DocketAdmins@prc.gov](mailto:DocketAdmins@prc.gov) (electronic filing assistance).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(d), the Commission received five petitions for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Alvord post office in Alvord, Iowa. The first petition for review received

December 1, 2011, was filed by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Hodgson. The second petition for review received December 6, 2011, was filed by Jackie Knobloch. The third petition for review received December 6, 2011, was filed by Janet Newborg. The fourth petition for review received December 7, 2011, was filed by Joanne C. Smith. The fifth petition for review received December 9, 2011, was filed by Elaine Childress. The earliest postmark date is November 25, 2011. The Commission hereby institutes a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5) and establishes Docket No. A2012-94 to consider Petitioners' appeal. If Petitioners would like to further explain their position with supplemental information or facts, Petitioners may either file a Participant Statement on PRC Form 61 or file a brief with the Commission no later than January 5, 2012.

Notwithstanding the Postal Service's determination to close this post office, on December 15, 2011, the Postal Service advised the Commission that it "will delay the closing or consolidation of any Post Office until May 15, 2012".<sup>1</sup> The Postal Service further indicated that it "will proceed with the discontinuance process for any Post Office in which a Final Determination was already posted as of December 12, 2011, including all pending appeals." *Id.* It stated that the only "Post Offices" subject to closing prior to May 16, 2012 are those that were not in operation on, and for which a Final Determination was posted as of, December 12, 2011. It affirmed that it "will not close or consolidate any other Post Office prior to May 16, 2012." *Id.* Lastly, the Postal Service requested the Commission "to continue adjudicating appeals as provided in the 120-day decisional schedule for each proceeding." *Id.*

The Postal Service's Notice outlines the parameters of its newly announced discontinuance policy. Pursuant to the Postal Service's request, the Commission will fulfill its appellate responsibilities under 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5).

*Categories of issues apparently raised.* Petitioners contend that (1) the Postal Service failed to consider the effect of the closing on the community (see 39

U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(i)); (2) the Postal Service failed to consider whether or not it will continue to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to the community (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(iii)); and (3) the Postal Service failed to adequately consider the economic savings resulting from the closure (see 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(2)(A)(iv)).

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*Availability; Web site posting.* The Commission has posted the appeal and supporting material on its Web site at <http://www.prc.gov>. Additional filings in this case and participant's submissions also will be posted on the Web site, if provided in electronic format or amenable to conversion, and not subject to a valid protective order. Information on how to use the Commission's Web site is available online or by contacting the Commission's webmaster via telephone at (202) 789-6873 or via electronic mail at [prc-webmaster@prc.gov](mailto:prc-webmaster@prc.gov).

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*Filing of documents.* All filings of documents in this case shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to Commission rules 9(a) and 10(a) at the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is

obtained. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a). Instructions for obtaining an account to file documents online may be found on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>, or by contacting the Commission's docket section at [prc-dockets@prc.gov](mailto:prc-dockets@prc.gov) or via telephone at (202) 789-6846.

Commission reserves the right to redact personal information which may infringe on an individual's privacy rights from documents filed in this proceeding.

*Intervention.* Persons, other than the Petitioners and respondents, wishing to be heard in this matter are directed to file a notice of intervention. See 39 CFR 3001.111(b). Notices of intervention in this case are to be filed on or before January 23, 2012. A notice of intervention shall be filed using the Internet (Filing Online) at the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>, unless a waiver is obtained for hardcopy filing. See 39 CFR 3001.9(a) and 3001.10(a).

*Further procedures.* By statute, the Commission is required to issue its decision within 120 days from the date it receives the appeal. See 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5). A procedural schedule has been developed to accommodate this statutory deadline. In the interest of expedition, in light of the 120-day decision schedule, the Commission may request the Postal Service or other participants to submit information or memoranda of law on any appropriate issue. As required by Commission rules, if any motions are filed, responses are due 7 days after any such motion is filed. See 39 CFR 3001.21.

*It is ordered:*

1. The procedural schedule listed below is hereby adopted.
2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Laura R. Schwartz is designated officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public.
3. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this notice and order and Procedural Schedule in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission,  
**Shoshana M. Grove,**  
*Secretary.*

**PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| December 1, 2011 .....  | Filing of Appeal.  |
| December 16, 2011 ..... | Deadline for the Postal Service to file the applicable administrative record in this appeal. |
| December 16, 2011 ..... | Deadline for the Postal Service to file any responsive pleading.                             |
| January 23, 2012 .....  | Deadline for notices to intervene (see 39 CFR 3001.111(b)).                                  |

<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service Notice of Status of the Moratorium on Post Office Discontinuance Actions, December 15, 2011, (Notice).

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE—Continued

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| January 5, 2012 .....   | Deadline for Petitioners' Form 61 or initial brief in support of petition ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(a) and (b)).   |
| January 25, 2012 .....  | Deadline for answering brief in support of the Postal Service ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(c)).   |
| February 9, 2012 .....  | Deadline for reply briefs in response to answering briefs ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.115(d)).   |
| February 16, 2012 ..... | Deadline for motions by any party requesting oral argument; the Commission will schedule oral argument only when it is a necessary addition to the written filings ( <i>see</i> 39 CFR 3001.116). |
| March 23, 2012 .....    | Expiration of the Commission's 120-day decisional schedule ( <i>see</i> 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5)).   |

[FR Doc. 2012-90 Filed 1-6-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

**RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

**Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

1. *Title and purpose of information collection:* Application for Employee Annuity Under the Railroad Retirement Act; OMB 3220-0002.

Section 2a of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) provides for payments of age and service, disability, and supplemental annuities to qualified employees. An annuity cannot be paid until the employee stops working for a railroad employer. In addition, the age and service employee must relinquish any rights held to such jobs. A disabled employee does not need to relinquish employee rights until attaining Full Retirement Age, or if earlier, when their

spouse files for a spouse annuity. Benefits become payable after the employee meets certain other requirements, which depend on the type of annuity payable. The requirements for obtaining the annuities are prescribed in 20 CFR parts 216 and 220.

To collect the information needed to help determine an applicant's entitlement to, and the amount of, an employee retirement annuity the RRB uses Forms AA-1, *Application for Employee Annuity*; AA-1d, *Application for Determination of Employee Disability*; G-204, *Verification of Workers Compensation/Public Disability Benefit Information* and electronic Form AA-1cert, *Application Summary and Certification*.

The AA-1 application process obtains information from an applicant about their marital history, work history, military service, benefits from other governmental agencies, railroad pensions and Medicare entitlement for either an age and service or disability annuity. An RRB representative interviews the applicant either at a field office (preferred), an itinerant point, or by telephone. During the interview, the RRB representative enters the information obtained into an on-line information system. Upon completion of the interview, the on-line information system generates, for the applicant's review and traditional pen and ink "wet" signature, Form AA-1cert, *Application Summary and Certification*, which summarizes the information that was provided or verified by the applicant. When the RRB representative is unable to contact the applicant in person or by telephone, for example, the applicant lives in another country, a manual version of Form AA-1 is used.

Form AA-1d, *Application for Determination of Employee's Disability*,

is completed by an employee who is filing for a disability annuity under the RRA, or a disability freeze under the Social Security Act, for early Medicare based on a disability. Form G-204, *Verification of Worker's Compensation/Public Disability Benefit Information*, is used to obtain and verify information concerning a worker's compensation or a public disability benefit that is or will be paid by a public agency to a disabled railroad employee. The RRB proposes no changes to Forms AA-1d or G-204.

Consistent with 20 CFR 217.17, upon completion of the AA-1 interview process, the RRB proposes to provide, in addition to the current Form AA-1cert pen and ink "wet" signature, an alternate signing method called "Attestation," which will be documented by new form AA-1sum. Attestation refers to an action taken by the RRB representative to confirm and annotate in the RRB records (1) the applicant's intent to file an application; (2) the applicant's affirmation under penalty of perjury that the information provided is correct; and (3) the applicant's agreement to sign the application by proxy. The information collected as part of the AA-1 interview process will be the same irrespective of whether the application is signed by a pen and ink "wet" signature or by attestation. The only difference will be the method of signature.

In addition, consistent with Department of Treasury guidelines, the RRB proposes revisions to Forms AA-1 and AA-1cert to provide claimants a Direct Express® Master Card® Debit Card payment option. Other non-burden-impacting editorial and formatting changes are proposed. One response is requested of each respondent. Completion of the forms is required to obtain a benefit.

**ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL RESPONDENT BURDEN**

[The estimated annual respondent burden is as follows]

| Form No.                         | Annual responses | Time (minutes) | Burden (hours) |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| AA-1 (without assistance) .....  | 100              | 62             | 103            |
| AA-1cert (with assistance) ..... | 4,900            | 30             | 2,450          |
| AA-1sum (with assistance) .....  | 9,100            | 29             | 4,398          |
| AA-1d (with assistance) .....    | 3,700            | 35             | 2,158          |