Notice of Meetings
Self-Governance PROGRESS Act
National Rulemaking Committee; Notice of Meetings

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Self-Governance PROGRESS Act, negotiated rulemaking Committee (Committee), will hold public meetings to negotiate and advise the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) on a proposed rule to implement the practical reforms and other goals to reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination for Indian Tribes Act of 2019 (PROGRESS Act).

DATES: Meetings are open to the public and will be held:
- December 20, 2023;
- January 18, 2024;
- February 8, 2024; and
- February 29, 2024.

ADRESSES: Send your comments, within 30 days following the meeting, to the Designated Federal Officer, Vickie Hanvey, using the following methods:
- Preferred method: Email to comments@bia.gov with “PROGRESS Act” in subject line.
- Alternate methods: Mail, hand-carry or use an overnight courier service to the Designated Federal Officer, Ms. Vickie Hanvey, Office of Self-Governance, Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 3624, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vickie Hanvey, Designated Federal Officer, comments@bia.gov, (918) 931-0745. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis. Please make the request, at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting, to the Designated Federal Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These meetings will be held under the authority of the PROGRESS Act (Pub. L. 116-180), the Negotiated Rulemaking Act (5 U.S.C. 561 et seq.), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10). The Committee is to negotiate and reach consensus on recommendations for a proposed rule that will replace the existing regulations at 25 CFR part 1000. The Committee will be charged with developing proposed regulations for the Secretary’s implementation of the PROGRESS Act’s provisions regarding the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Self-Governance Program.

The PROGRESS Act amends subchapter I of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), 25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq., which addresses Indian Self-Determination, and subchapter IV of the ISDEAA, which addresses DOI’s Tribal Self-Governance Program. The PROGRESS Act also authorizes the Secretary to adapt negotiated rulemaking procedures to the unique context of self-governance and the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes. The Federal Register (87 FR 30256) notice published on May 18, 2022, discussed the issues to be negotiated and the members of the Committee.

Meeting Agenda
These meetings are open to the public. Detailed information about the Committee, including meeting agendas can be accessed at https://www.bia.gov/service/progress-act. Topics for these meetings will include Committee priority setting, subcommittee reports, negotiated rulemaking process, schedule and agenda setting for future meetings, Committee caucus, and public comment.

For in-person meetings, members of the public are required to present a valid government-issued photo ID to enter the building, and are subject to security screening, including bag and parcel checks.

Plenary Meeting (Number 10)
- Meeting date: December 20, 2023.
- Meeting time: Time: 1 to 5 p.m. ET.
- Meeting location: Virtual.
- Virtual link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzE3MDA2MWY1OTAwYi00NjM2LmNlTkM5MTI5NTg5MDQ1ZmE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22200693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22213321130-a12b-4290-8bcf-30387057677d%22%2C%22true%2C%22role%22%3A%22%22%2C%22%7D&btype=a&role=a.
- Comments: Submit by January 19, 2024.

Plenary Meeting (Number 11)
- Meeting date: January 18, 2024.
- Meeting time: 1 to 5 p.m. ET.
- Meeting location: Virtual and in-person at the South Penthouse room, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.
- Virtual link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDU3ZGI4MDQYTYNio0NTFjLTgyODctODRmZjY1MjBkNzU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22200693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22213321130-a12b-4290-8bcf-30387057677d%22%2C%22true%2C%22role%22%3A%22%22%2C%22%7D&btype=a&role=a.
- Comments: Submit by January 17, 2024.

Plenary Meeting (Number 12)
- Meeting date: February 8, 2024.
- Meeting time: 1 to 5 p.m. ET.
- Meeting location: Virtual and in-person at the North Penthouse room, Department of the Interior 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.
- Virtual link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzE3MDA2MWY1OTAwYi00NjM2LmNlTkM5MTI5NTg5MDQ1ZmE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22200693b5ba-4b18-4d7b-9341-f32f400a5494%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22213321130-a12b-4290-8bcf-30387057677d%22%2C%22true%2C%22role%22%3A%22%22%2C%22%7D&btype=a&role=a.
- Comments: Submit by March 9, 2024.
SUMMARY: The Postal Service is proposing to amend Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) in various sections to require the use of USPS Ship™ (aka Package Platform) for the acceptance and payment of all commercial domestic and international parcel mailings and discontinue the use of the Electronic Verification System (eVS®).

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 28, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written comments to the Director, Product Classification, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446, Washington, DC 20260–5015. If sending comments by email, include the name and address of the commenter and send to PCFederalRegister@usps.gov, with a subject line of “eVS Migrated to USPS Ship.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Smith at (202) 268–8091, Vicki Bosch (202) 268–4978 or Garry Rodriguez at (202) 268–7281.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All submitted comments and attachments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider to be confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Background

The Postal Service™ currently has the following options/channels to pay and enter commercial parcel mailings:

- Click-N-Ship®
- ePostage®
- PC Postage®
- eVS®
- non-eVS (BMEU entered permit imprint)
- USPS Ship

The Postal Service has streamlined, simplified, and improved the payment and acceptance processes for parcels. Most commercial shippers are currently enrolled in eVS for payment and acceptance of their commercial package mailings. eVS has enabled many companies to easily ship parcels with the Postal Service. Over the past 20 years since eVS started, the Postal Service has upgraded equipment to automatically capture package attributes such as weight, dimensions, USPS packaging, zone, and entry. This robust infrastructure has enabled the simplification of verifications that currently require offline and manual processes.

Proposal

The Postal Service is proposing to require the use of USPS Ship for the acceptance and payment of all commercial domestic and international parcel mailings.

USPS Ship combines the attributes captured from scan data and manifested attributes to ensure customers are charged accurate postage. For consolidators, if there are adjustments to inaccurate original postage, those individual package costs can be provided to the mail owners.

USPS Ship is the next generation package platform for payment and acceptance. USPS Ship offers online enrollment, individual package pricing, automated adjustments, online reports, and data feeds via IV–MTR. The automated capture enables individual package attributes to be compared to manifest data to validate accurate postage. Shortpaid (postage due) or overpaid (refunds) will be assessed upon package delivery and applied to the Enterprise Payment Account (EPA) on file. This new platform automates and simplifies the acceptance and validation process.

Requirements to participate in USPS Ship are as follows:

- Customers must enroll in USPS Ship and be assigned a unique MID for use on packages.
- Customers must submit valid rate ingredients for payment for each package within their shipment.
- Customers must upload manifests to USPS using the Parcel Data Exchange or Electronic Interchange (SFTP or AS2) for payment as noted in eVS Pub 205.
- Customers must pay postage through an Enterprise Payment Account.
- Packages must include a Tracking Number that is unique for 120 days.
- Customers must ship the following products:
  - Domestic Products—Priority Mail Express®, Priority Mail®, USPS Ground Advantage™ (formerly First-Class Package® Service), Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail®, Library Mail, USPS Marketing Mail® parcels, USPS Marking Mail Nonprofit parcels, Parcel Select® Destination Entry, USPS Connect™ Local, USPS Connect Local Mail, and USPS Returns®.