



July 9, 2015

No New Rates for You! PRC rejects USPS rate proposal for Standard Mail and Periodicals

The Postal Regulatory Commission, the body that, once upon a time, rubber-stamped USPS rate cases has rejected the Postal Service's latest rate proposal, which was set to take effect on April 26. They did approve parts of the case – First-Class Mail and competitive products – but for Standard, Nonprofit, Periodicals, and parcel services the case was “remanded” to the Postal Service to be adjusted to comply with the provisions of the 2006 Postal reform act – PAEA. It seems the way discounts were distributed was not deemed acceptable. As noted in the February edition of ProNews, some rate categories saw increases of more than 5%, particularly in nonprofit rates.

The Postal Service is now frantically cypherin' to come up with appropriate rates that they can put into place. They need to get rates in and approved at least 45 days ahead of the change, which according to our combination calendar/abacus is St Patrick's Day. Green beer for everyone if they don't make it!

We do have to say that rate cases have become more entertaining in the last couple of years. Our bet on this one? They'll get it back in with the minimum required changes to pass PRC muster and be implemented in April. Still, these are getting harder and harder to predict.

Stay tuned!

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