

decisionmaking process. The Subcommittees will review the proposed action plan to improve the Senior Management Meeting process and the voluntary approach proposed by the industry for reporting reliability and availability information for risk-significant systems and equipment. The Subcommittees will also review the NRC program for risk-based analysis of reactor operating experience, as well as the results of special studies performed by the staff (e.g., auxiliary feedwater, Westinghouse reactor protection systems, loss of offsite power, initiating events, reactor core isolation cooling, high pressure core injection, fire events, etc.). The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittees, their consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittees, along with any of their consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittees will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, its consultants, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Michael T. Markley (telephone 301/415-6885) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EDT). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: July 31, 1997.
Sam Duraiswamy,
Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch.
 [FR Doc. 97-20654 Filed 8-5-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of August 4, 11, 18 and 25, 1997.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of August 4

Monday, August 4

2:00 p.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting). A. Atlas Corporation; Docket No. 40-3453-MLA; LBP-97-9. Memorandum and Order (Denying Hearing Request).

2:05 p.m. Briefing by International Programs (Closed—Ex. 2).

3:00 p.m. Briefing on Investigative Matters (Closed—Ex. 5 and 7).

Wednesday, August 6

9:30 a.m. Meeting with Northeast Nuclear on Millstone (Public Meeting). Contact: Bill Travers, 301-415-1200.)

2:00 p.m. Briefing on Shutdown Risk Proposed Rule for Nuclear Power Plants (Public Meeting). (Contact: Tim Collins, 301-415-2897.)

3:30 p.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting). (If needed.)

Thursday, August 7

9:30 a.m. Meeting with NRC Executive Council (Public Meeting). (Contact: James L. Blaha, 301-415-1703.)

Week of August 11—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of August 11.

Week of August 18—Tentative

Friday, August 22

11:30 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting). (If needed.)

Week of August 25—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of August 25.

*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

Contact person for more information:
 Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

* * * * *

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1661).

In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: August 1, 1997.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20760 Filed 8-1-97; 4:21 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. MC97-5; Order No. 1188]

Notice and Order on Filing of Request for Establishment of a Provisional Classification and Fee Schedule for Packaging Service

Issued July 31, 1997.

Before Commissioners: Edward J. Gleiman, Chairman; H. Edward Quick, Jr., Vice Chairman; George W. Haley; W.H. "Trey" LeBlanc III

Notice is hereby given that on July 29, 1997, the United States Postal Service filed a request with the Postal Rate Commission pursuant to 3623 of the Postal Reorganization Act, 39 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*, for a recommended decision on proposed additions to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS). The request also includes proposed new fees. The request includes attachments and is supported by the testimony of three witnesses and seven library references. It is on file in the Commission Docket Room and is available for inspection during the Commission's regular business hours.

Provisional Character of the Proposed Classifications and Fees

The Postal Service indicates that it is requesting new classifications and fees in order to introduce a packaging service on a provisional basis. The Service proposes that the packaging service be offered for a period not to exceed two years, unless it submits an

interim request for establishment as a permanent mail classification, in which case the provisional service could be offered for one additional year.

Description of Request

The Postal Service proposes creation of a separate special service for packaging service, which "would enable the Postal Service to offer customers the option of having items professionally packaged and staged for dispatch by the Postal Service." Request at 1. Packaging service would be available for "mailable articles deemed suitable by the Postal Service for packaging[.]"¹ and which are to be sent as Express Mail, Letters and Sealed Parcels, Priority Mail, or Parcel Post. While in effect, the provisional packaging service would be offered on a nationwide basis "at postal retail outlets where demand would be sufficient to justify investment in training and inventory." *Ibid.*

Fees for the packaging service would vary according to required carton size, the fragility of the item(s) to be packaged, and whether special packaging techniques are deemed necessary. The proposed fees range from \$ 8.50 for a small, nonbreakable item to \$ 22.50 for a large item requiring a special packaging technique.²

According to the Postal Service, provision of the proposed service would build upon its prior experience in testing Pack & Send service, which was the subject of Docket No. C96-1, a complaint proceeding.³ However, the Service states that the packaging service it proposes in this docket differs from its predecessor in several respects. First, the proposed service would be offered only in conjunction with existing mail services, not as a stand-alone service. Second, fees for the proposed service

and the special packaging techniques that may be required have been refined and simplified into three groupings based on the surface area of the required carton. Third, the service would be offered at selected postal retail outlets on a nationwide basis, rather than in a few markets. Finally, various components of the retail operation in which items are packaged for mailing would be automated.

Expedited Consideration of the Request

The Postal Service's request invokes the operation of subpart J of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure, 39 CFR 3001.171 through 3001.176, which provide for expedited consideration of requests for provisional service changes of limited duration. The purpose of these expedited procedures, as stated in 39 CFR 3001.174, "is to allow for consideration of proposed provisional services within 90 days, consistent with the procedural due process rights of interested persons."

According to the Service, the requested classification is suitable for consideration under the provisional service rules because it would create a separate special service, ancillary to the carriage of mail and available on a strictly optional basis, that would broaden the array of services available to mailers while recovering its costs and making a contribution to institutional costs. Thus, the Postal Service states, the proposed service would "supplement, but will not alter, existing classifications and rates[.]" as specified in 39 CFR 3001.171(a). The Postal Service also claims that adoption of packaging service on a provisional basis would be consistent with the Commission's policy of recommending "the introduction of provisional services that enhance the range of postal services available to the public, without producing a material adverse effect overall on postal revenues or costs, and without causing unnecessary or unreasonable harm to competitors of the Postal Service." *Ibid.*

In a separate notice dated July 29, 1997, a copy of which was filed with its Request, the Postal Service certifies that it has complied with the early notification requirement specified for provisional service requests in 39 CFR 3001.173(d).

Compliance With Certain Filing Requirements

The Postal Service's request was also accompanied by a Notice Concerning Compliance Statement, Or, In The Alternative, Motion Of The United States Postal Service For Waiver Of Certain Provisions Of Rule 64(h). In this

Notice, the Service observes that the circumstances of this docket, and compliance with the filing requirements specified in 39 CFR 3001.54 and 3001.64, are complicated by the pendency of the omnibus rate proceeding in Docket No. R97-1.⁴ The Service states that the information it presented in support of its Request in R97-1 is responsive to the requirements of 39 CFR 3001.54 and 3001.64 for both that proceeding and the instant docket, and that its compliance statement in this docket accordingly incorporates certain information provided in R97-1 by reference.

Nevertheless, the Service states that it has developed cost estimates for the proposed packaging service "using inputs from prior rate proceedings." Notice at 2. The Postal Service explains that this approach is intended to accommodate participants' and the Commission's needs to evaluate the cost information and theories it presents in R97-1 without tying the procedural schedule in this proceeding to the schedule in the ongoing omnibus rate case, and thus to allow consideration of its provisional service proposal within the 90-day schedule specified in § 3001.174.

However, should the Commission consider the current filing's reliance on documentation presented in the pending omnibus rate case to be an impediment to expedited consideration of its packaging proposal, the Postal Service moves in the alternative for waiver of certain requirements set out in § 3001.64(h). Specifically, the Service's alternative motion seeks a waiver of 39 CFR 3001.54(b)(3) in part, (d) in part, (f)(2) and (f)(3), (h), (j), and (l) in part. In general, the Service justifies waiver of these provisions in light of the limited nature and anticipated effects of the packaging proposal.

Further Procedures.

Section 173(b) provides that interested persons may intervene in a provisional service proceeding within 28 days after the filing of the Postal Service's Request. Accordingly, anyone wishing to be heard in this matter is directed to file a written notice of intervention with Margaret P. Crenshaw, Secretary of the Commission, 1333 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20268-0001, on or before August 26, 1997. Intended participants should indicate whether they request formal

¹ Proposed DMCS § 17.020, § 953.21. In Attachment A to its Request, the Postal Service includes two alternative sets of proposed DMCS provisions: one corresponding to the numbering convention currently in effect for the schedules of special services, and the other in accordance with a new numbering system it has proposed in the pending omnibus rate proceeding, Docket No. R97-1.

² Should the Commission decide to recommend the proposed provisional packaging service, it may recommend the fees proposed by the Postal Service or a different set of fees, depending upon its assessment of record evidence in light of the policies and factors prescribed by the Postal Reorganization Act.

³ In Docket No. C96-1, the Commission's inquiry focused exclusively on whether the subject Pack & Send service was "postal" or "non-postal" in character, in order to determine whether it was being offered in contravention of the procedural requirements of chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code. The Commission did not assess the merits of the Pack & Send service in light of substantive statutory policies and factors. See Order No. 1145, December 16, 1996; Order No. 1156, February 3, 1997.

⁴ The Postal Service filed a Request for a recommended decision on proposed changes in domestic postage rates and fees, and proposed changes in certain mail classifications, on July 10, 1997. See Order No. 1186, 62 FR 39660-39709 (July 23, 1997).

intervention or limited participator status. See 39 CFR 3001.20 and 3001.20a.

Section 173(e) of the rules of practice (39 CFR 3001.173(e)) states that the Commission will hold hearings on a Postal Service Request for a provisional service change "when it determines that there is a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved, and that a hearing is needed to resolve that issue." To assist that determination, the same provision directs parties who wish to dispute a genuine issue of material fact to file a request for a hearing, which:

shall state with specificity the fact or facts set forth in the Postal Service's filing that the party disputes, and when possible, what the party believes to be the true fact or facts and the evidence it intends to provide in support of its position.

Ibid.

Any participant who wishes to dispute a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved in this proceeding shall file a request for a hearing as specified in § 173(e) by August 26, 1997. In order to assist the Commission's determination of whether a hearing is necessary, should any written discovery be directed to the Postal Service by a participant before August 26, 1997, the Postal Service shall respond within 10 days.

A prehearing conference will be held in this proceeding on Thursday, August 28, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room. Participants should be prepared to discuss what formal procedures, including hearings, may be necessary and appropriate in this docket. If the Commission determines that formal hearings to resolve genuine issues of material fact are required, hearings to evaluate the supporting evidence presented by the Postal Service may be scheduled to begin as soon as September 3, 1997. The presiding officer will establish subsequent procedural dates.

Representation of the General Public

In conformance with 39 U.S.C. 3624(a), the Commission designates W. Gail Willette, Director of the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding. Pursuant to this designation, Ms. Willette will direct the activities of Commission personnel assigned to assist her and, when requested, will supply their names for the record. Neither Ms. Willette nor any of the assigned personnel will participate in or provide advice on any Commission decision in this

proceeding. The OCA shall be separately served with three copies of all filings, in addition to and contemporaneous with, service on the Commission of the 24 copies required by § 10(c) of the rules of practice (39 CFR 3001.10(c)).

It is ordered:

1. The Commission will sit en banc in this proceeding.

2. Notices of intervention shall be filed no later than August 26, 1997.

3. Participants who wish to request a hearing in this matter shall submit a request in conformance with 39 CFR § 3001.173(e) no later than August 26, 1997.

4. Answers to the Postal Service's Notice Concerning Compliance Statement, or, in the Alternative, Motion for waiver of Certain Provisions of Rule 64(h) are to be submitted no later than August 26, 1997.

5. The Postal Service shall provide responses to any written discovery requests submitted to it before August 26, 1997, within 10 days.

6. W. Gail Willette, Director of the Commission's Office of the Consumer Advocate, is designated to represent the general public.

7. A prehearing conference in this docket shall be held on Thursday, August 28, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room.

8. The Secretary shall cause this notice and order to be published in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Margaret P. Crenshaw,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-20628 Filed 8-5-97; 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.

Title and purpose of information collection:

Lag Service Reports; OMB 3220-0005

Under Section 9 of the Railroad Act (RRA), railroad employers are required to submit reports of employee service and compensation to the RRB as needed for administering the RRA. To pay benefits due on a deceased employee's earnings records or determine entitlement to and amount of annuity applied for, it is necessary at times to obtain from railroad employers current (lag) service and compensation information not yet reported to the RRB through the annual reporting process. The reporting requirements are specified in 20 CFR 209.4 and 209.5.

The RRB utilizes Form AA-12, *Notice of Death and Statement of Compensation, and Form G-88A, Employer's Supplemental Report of Service and Compensation* to obtain the required lag service and compensation and related information from railroad employers.

The RRB proposes minor editorial changes to Form AA-12 and G-88A to incorporate language required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. No other changes are proposed. The completion time for the AA-12 is estimated at 6 and 1/2 minutes per response. The completion time for form G-88A is estimated at 5 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 800 Form AA-12's and 400 G-88's are completed annually.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-20607 Filed 8-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M