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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 404(b); 3603, 3622–24, 3661, 3662, 3663.

SOURCE: 36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Nomenclature changes for Part 3001 appear at 70 FR 48277, Aug. 17, 2005.

Subpart A—Rules of General Applicability

§ 3001.1 Construction of rules.

The rules in this part shall be liberally construed to secure just and speedy determination of issues.

[38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973]

§ 3001.2 [Reserved]

§ 3001.3 Scope of rules.

The rules of practice in this part are applicable to proceedings before the Postal Rate Commission under the Act,

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including those which involve a hearing on the record before the Commission or its designated presiding officer. They do not preclude the informal disposition of any matters coming before the Commission not required by statute to be determined upon notice and hearing.

§ 3001.4 Method of citing rules.

This part shall be referred to as the "rules of practice." Each section, paragraph, or subparagraph shall include only the numbers and letters to the right of the decimal point. For example, "3001.24 *Prehearing conferences*" shall be referred to as "section 24" or "rule 24."

[65 FR 6539, Feb. 10, 2000]

§ 3001.5 Definitions.

(a) *Act* means the Postal Reorganization Act (84 Stat. 719, title 39, U.S.C.), as amended.

(b) *Postal Service* means the U.S. Postal Service established by the Act.

(c) *Commission* or *Commissioner* means, respectively, the Postal Rate Commission established by the Act or a member thereof.

(d) *Secretary* means the Secretary or the Acting Secretary of the Commission.

(e) *Presiding officer* means the Chairman of the Commission in proceedings conducted by the Commission en banc or the Commissioner or employee of the Commission designated to preside at hearings or conferences.

(f) *Person* means an individual, a partnership, corporation, trust, unincorporated association, public or private organization, or governmental agency.

(g) *Party* means the Postal Service, a complainant, an appellant, or a person who has intervened in a proceeding before the Commission.

(h) *Participant* means any party and the officer of the Commission who is designated to represent the interests of the general public and, for purposes of §§ 3001.11(e), 3001.12, 3001.21, 3001.23, 3001.24, 3001.29, 3001.30, 3001.31, and 3001.32 only, it also means persons who are limited participants.

(i) *Complainant* means a person or interested party who as permitted by section 3662 of the Act files a complaint

with the Commission in the form and manner hereinafter prescribed.

(j) *Hearing* means a hearing under sections 556 and 557 of title 5, U.S.C. (80 Stat. 386), as provided by sections 3624, 3661, and 3662 of the Act.

(k) *Record* means the transcript of testimony and exhibits, together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, which constitutes the exclusive record for decision.

(l) *Effective date* of an order or notice issued by the Commission or an officer thereof means the date of issuance unless otherwise specifically provided.

(m) *Appellant* means a person who as permitted by 39 U.S.C. 404(b) appeals to the Commission a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office.

(n) *Commission meeting* means the deliberations of at least three Commissioners where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official Commission business, but does not include deliberations required or permitted by § 3001.43(d) or § 3001.43(e).

(o) *Ex parte communication* means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all participants and limited participants is not given, but it shall not include requests for status reports on any matter or proceeding covered by subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 or a proceeding conducted pursuant to subpart H of this part.

(p) *Domestic Mail Classification Schedule* means the classification schedule, including schedules of full and phased rates and fees, adopted by the Decision of the Governors of the U.S. Postal Service Re Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission Regarding the Proper Scope and Extent of the Mail Classification Schedule, issued April 3, 1979, and any amendments thereto adopted pursuant to the procedures of subchapter III, chapter 36, title 39 of the U.S.C.

(q) *Office of the Consumer Advocate* or *OCA* means the officer of the Commission designated to represent the interests of the general public in a Commission proceeding.

(r) *Negotiated Service Agreement* means a written contract, to be in effect for a