

# POSTAL NEWS

No. 12/2009

**Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,  
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI**

- 1. Postal cuts not all about money. Jan 31, 2009.**
- 2. Effort launched to save W-B post office. Jan 31, 2009.**
- 3. Postal service, big shots making plenty. Jan 31, 2009.**
- 4. Government withdraws proposed amendments to Indian Postal Act. Jan 29, 2009.**
- 5. International Forum Addresses Energy Issues Facing Postal Industry. Jan 29, 2009.**

## **1. Postal cuts not all about money**

Deseret News editorial

Published: Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009 12:12 a.m. MST

The U.S. Postal Service has made an unusual request of Congress. The agency wants to scale back its delivery schedule to five days a week instead of six. Unless some change is made, the Postal Service could experience a \$6 billion deficit by the end of the year, officials say. The agency was \$2.8 billion in the red last year after experiencing its largest single volume drop in history.

While the change would not be immediate because it would require the approval of the postal governing board, great care must be taken to ensure that people who heavily rely on the Postal Service receive an appropriate level of service. This is particularly important for senior citizens who do not use computers to receive and send e-mail or pay bills online. Those who do not use direct deposit likely may receive pension or other benefit checks through the mail. It is vital that they receive these checks in a timely manner.

Otherwise, it is difficult to argue with the anticipated cost savings — as much as \$3.5 billion a year, according to a Postal Service study.

Tuesdays, according to previous Postal Service studies, have the lightest mail flow, which would be the most logical day to suspend service if needed.

Story continues below

Although curbing service on day a week would help stem the Postal Service's financial problems, it will present challenges to people who need to meet a deadline, whether paying their bills on time, submitting a college application or sending a birthday card.

It is not as though most consumers lack other options at their disposal, including private shippers such as FedEx and UPS. But for communities that are far from busy interstates, the Postal Service remains the primary provider of parcel delivery. Private companies may also deliver to these areas, but their routes may be less frequent.

In many respects, it makes sense that the Postal Service finds ways to stop its financial losses, since the quasi-independent agency is a taxpayer asset. However, cuts in service must be accomplished in a manner that preserves services for people who rely on the Postal Service the most.

000

## **2. Effort launched to save W-B post office**

BY DENISE ALLABAUGH  
STAFF WRITER

Published: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:06 AM EST

WILKES-BARRE — Nearly 1,000 people have signed a petition to keep mail processing operations in Wilkes-Barre.

The petition, led by unionized postal workers, seeks to stop the U.S. Postal Service from consolidating some operations at the mail processing and distribution center in Wilkes-Barre into a Scranton facility on Stafford Avenue — a plan that is being studied.

John Kishel, president of the Wilkes-Barre Area Local 175 American Postal Workers Union, and Bill Smith, president of the Wilkes-Barre branch of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, said Friday they believe the move would be detrimental to the mail service area citizens and businesses receive.

“Right now, mail standards from our area to Harrisburg are overnight. If they take the mail and process it in Scranton, it’s going to make that two days now,” Kishel said. “The citizens and businesses need to be aware that the service is going to be reduced.”

Kishel and Smith printed signs reading, “Save the Wilkes-Barre Post Office.” They plan to rent billboards and hold informational pickets.

The Wilkes-Barre distribution center collects outgoing mail from and directs mail to nearly 80 post offices in ZIP codes that begin with 182, 186 and 187. The center employs about 230 employees, including management. About the same number are employed at the Scranton facility, which serves 93 post offices in the 184, 185 and 188 ZIP code areas. Depending on the results of a five-month feasibility study, the Postal Service could reassign employees.

“They tell us that no employee will lose their job, but if they move our mail to Scranton, Scranton won’t be able to take all our employees. Our employees will have jobs but where they will be, that’s the question,” Smith said. “They’re trying to reduce the work force everywhere so really, there’s no place for us to go if they consolidate.”

Their petition, which will be sent to the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski and other elected officials in Wilkes-Barre and surrounding communities, states, “We do not want to lose our postmark of Wilkes-Barre, which we are most proud of and will happen, if mail is processed elsewhere.”

Kanjorski said Friday he is working closely with the local postal workers’ unions to help in their efforts to maintain a mail processing operations center in Wilkes-Barre.

“We are in tough economic times, and we must save as many jobs as we can,” Kanjorski said. “Additionally, the Wilkes-Barre facility provides a needed service to local residents that would otherwise be disrupted.”

Wilkes-Barre council also has showed its support for the unionized postal workers and is scheduled to vote on a resolution Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. to oppose any efforts to consolidate some Wilkes-Barre operations into the Scranton facility.

“I think it should be consolidated into Wilkes-Barre,” said Wilkes-Barre Council Chairman Tony Thomas Jr. “We have a centrally located post office in real good shape and we should keep it in downtown Wilkes-Barre.”

The postal workers’ petition can be found on [www.savethewbpo.org](http://www.savethewbpo.org), a Web site that was created after the Postal Service announced earlier this month that a five-month feasibility study would be complete to determine if it would be more efficient to consolidate some Wilkes-Barre operations into Scranton.

The Postal Service is “just looking at the opportunities for improvement that may exist between consolidating some processing operations from Wilkes-Barre that are duplicated in Scranton,” said Postal Service spokesman Ray Daiutolo.

“It’s too early and not appropriate to try to prognosticate if the study will say it’s feasible to do that or not,” he said. “It’s all very speculative because we don’t know what the feasibility study will say.”

Daiutolo said as consumer spending has slowed and the use of the Internet has increased, the Postal Service is facing one of its most difficult challenges in history this year and is looking for cost-cutting measures.

According to Daiutolo and Wilkes-Barre Postmaster Judith Lech, there has been a continual decline in single-piece first-class mail volumes over the last decade.

The current economic downturn has led to an even greater decline in volume with the loss of more than 9 billion pieces in the last year alone, they said.

“The Postal Service has to realign its processing and delivery network to match its resources with mail volume,” Lech said. “The reality is we have an excess of equipment, staff and facilities to process a declining volume of mail. Consolidating some postal operations only makes logical business sense given the economic realities. It would be fiscally irresponsible not to do so.”

dallabaugh@citizensvoice.com, 570-821-2115

000

### **3. Postal service, big shots making plenty**

Readers • The Desert Sun • January 31, 2009

Today I am reading about the financial problems that our postal service seem to be having and want to take away one day of our mail delivery to justify their money woes.

Why don't they start with, and let the public know that Mr. Potter draws a salary almost \$750,000 dollars a year and the other six cronies under him all make a \$250,000 each themselves, not to talk about the free postage that go along with the package. I wonder if they will miss their mail as the rest of us “ordinary folks.”

Dennis Gorsky  
Cathedral City

000

### **4. Government withdraws proposed amendments to Indian Postal Act**

29 Jan 2009, 1538 hrs IST, ET Bureau

NEW DELHI: The government has withdrawn the proposed amendments to the Indian

Postal Act, a top government official said on Thursday. The department of posts (DoP) would redraft the Bill once again and send it for the cabinet's consideration, the official said.

"We have withdrawn the amendments to the Postal Act. We will draft new Bill and go to the Cabinet again," DoP secretary Radhika Doraiswamy told reporters at a function here.

The DoP has decided to withdraw the amendments after receiving several objections from different ministries and the prime minister's office on the proposals. The Bill was also facing strong objections from the courier companies as it proposed to curtail their power in sending and receiving mails and parcels.

The scrapped Bill had a provision which restricted courier companies to handle delivery of documents and letters below 300 gm weight. The Bill had also proposed a universal service obligation fee for courier companies on the lines of those paid by the telecom service providers. Under the proposed USO, courier companies with annual turnover of Rs 25 lakh or more were to part with 10% of their turnover with the government.

The proposed Bill had also recommended lowering the foreign direct investment cap in the courier industry. It had also recommended that courier companies charge higher fees for mail delivery than those charged by the speed post service of the India Post if they wished to handle mails of lower than the prescribed weight under the Bill.

On the proposal for the commercial utilisation of excess land of the postal department Ms Doraiswamy said that the committee of secretaries (CoS) would take a final call on the matter in its meeting on February 6.

000

## **5. International Forum Addresses Energy Issues Facing Postal Industry**

Best-selling Author and Environmental Advisor Jeremy Rifkin is Keynote Speaker

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- With the combined energy needs to operate nearly 1 million post offices and mail processing centers worldwide, plus the fuel for hundreds of thousands of mail delivery vehicles, energy is a critical issue for postal agencies in every nation.

Senior postal officials from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States are exploring these crucial issues this week at the forum "Energy: The Next 20 Years."

Sponsored by the International Post Corporation (IPC), a cooperative association of 24 national postal operators in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific, the forum is an opportunity for postal executives and energy technology experts to share ideas.

Jeremy Rifkin, best-selling author and president of The Foundation on Economic Trends, will be keynote speaker. Rifkin has been influential in shaping public policy in the United States and around the world, and currently serves as an advisor to the European Commission, the European Parliament and several European Union heads of state.

Other speakers will be U.S. Postmaster General and CEO John E. Potter, U.S. Department of Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy David Rodgers and representatives of General Motors, UTC Power, and Fuel Cell Europe.

"Just as we work together to deliver mail for customers around the globe, the world's postal agencies are working together on energy issues," said Sam Pulcrano, U.S. Postal Service vice president, Sustainability. "This event is an opportunity to build on the commitment from postal leaders to long-term sustainability and to share and gain strategic insights."

IPC members account for 85 percent of the world's mail and collectively employ 2.4 million people. IPC Director of Markets and Communication Jane Dyer said by extending awareness to suppliers, customers and families, there is the potential to mobilize millions of people.

"By working together and sharing best practices, our members have shown their commitment to tackling difficult issues well into the future," said Dyer. "We hope that our initiatives will be used as models by other industries as well."

IPC, which is based in Brussels, has a number of energy and environmental programs under way:

The IPC Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System is a three-tier postal industry program focused on developing sector-wide measurement systems, conducting stakeholder research and communicating sustainability advances.

IPC members' eco-driving initiatives strive to lower emissions by improving how drivers operate postal vehicles, helping them make more environmentally friendly decisions behind the wheel.

Green building practices also are aimed at lowering the postal industry's environmental footprint.

Details and reports about IPC initiatives can be found at [www.ipc.be](http://www.ipc.be) under "Environment." More information about sustainability initiatives at the U.S. Postal Service is available at <http://www.usps.com/green/>.

An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services, not tax dollars, to pay for operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenue of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

Website: <http://www.ipc.be/>

Website: <http://www.usps.com/green//>

000

Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : [chairulanwar49@operamail.com](mailto:chairulanwar49@operamail.com), [uyungchairul@plasa.com](mailto:uyungchairul@plasa.com).