

# **POSTAL NEWS**

## **No. 180/2009**

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- 1. Postal services get exclusive '.post' address. Dec 11, 2009.**
- 2. Global postal industry sets 20% carbon reduction target by 2020. Dec 11, 2009.**
- 3. PARKER v. U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. Dec 10, 2009.**
- 4. Contract Award- AT&T - \$120 Million - Postal Service. Dec 11, 2009.**
- 5. Royal Mail profits rise despite postal fall. Dec 10, 2009.**
- 6. Where in the world is 94404?. Dec 10, 2009.**
- 7. Excerpts: The Freeze of Postal Privatization . Dec 7, 2009.**

### **1. Postal services get exclusive '.post' address**

(AFP) – Dec 11, 2009

GENEVA — Global postal services will soon have their own address on the Internet, after the web's authority for assigning domain names ICANN, said on Friday that it had approved the new address dot post (.post).

The managing rights of the .post top level domain name were granted to the UN's Universal Postal Union, which will set up the rules on which organisations the address could be attributed to.

"People who access a .post site will immediately recognise it as belonging to a valid postal service or provider of postal services," said the UPU, calling it "a piece of real estate space on the Internet."

The .post domains are expected to be online by the second half of 2010 after the UPU and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) signed the agreement here

Although letters are commonly dubbed 'snail mail' in the Internet world, many national postal services have expanded their online presence and services in recent years, and play a key part in delivering e-commerce goods.

"Postal services will explore new frontiers and basically go where no postal services have gone before," UPU Director General Edouard Dayan promised.

## **2. Global postal industry sets 20% carbon reduction target by 2020**

International Post Corporation announces first global services industry target and releases industry's first sustainability report

Submitted by:  
Weber Shandwick

Categories:  
Environment, Sustainability

Posted:  
Dec 11, 2009 – 02:31 PM EST

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 11 /CSRwire/ - Copenhagen, 11 December 2009-The postal industry today became the first services sector to set a global emissions target for its industry when the International Post Corporation (IPC), which represents the world's leading post operators, today announced that 20 member postal operators will work together to collectively reduce their carbon emissions by 20% by 2020, based on 2008 levels.

The commitment to an industry-wide carbon reduction target was announced at a panel discussion on the postal industry and climate change, moderated by Nadine Dereza. During the discussion Jean-Paul Bailly, Chairman of the International Post Corporation and CEO of Groupe La Poste, presented the "IPC Postal Sector Sustainability Report on the Environment", the industry's first ever combined sustainability report. Twenty post operators which collectively represent 80% of global mail volumes participated in this first round of reporting, using the IPC Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System, developed specifically for the industry.

IPC members manage over 100,000 facilities and 600,000 transport vehicles. The 20 post operators that contributed to the Sustainability Report collectively currently emit 8.36 million tonnes of CO2. The target set will reduce that total to 6.688 million tonnes by 2020.

"This is a momentous occasion, not just for us in the postal industry, but for business as a whole", said Jean-Paul Bailly. "As the first services sector to unite on a global scale to tackle its industry's global carbon footprint, we're demonstrating what can be done when organisations work together. Curbing CO2 emissions is something that concerns the entire industry, and it makes sense to take a sector approach to reaching a solution", he concluded.

Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), applauded the announcement. "I welcome this global commitment by an entire service sector as an example of the vision and leadership required at all levels to effectively combat climate change, and I encourage the postal sector to continue to set an example".

The 20 post operators who took part in the EMMS report and have together set the joint emissions reduction target are: An Post, Ireland; Australia Post; Canada Post; Correios de Portugal; Correos y Telegrafos, Spain; Deutsche Post, Germany; Groupe La Poste, France; Hellenic Post, Greece; Itella Post, Finland; La Poste/De Post, Belgium; Magyar Posta, Hungary; New Zealand Post; Norway Post; Posten Norden AB, Denmark and Sweden; Postes et Telecommunications Luxembourg; Royal Mail, United Kingdom; Swiss Post; TNT, The Netherlands; and the United States Postal Service.

#### About the International Post Corporation

The International Post Corporation (IPC) is a cooperative association of 24 member postal operators in Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. Over the past two decades IPC has collaborated with its members to upgrade the quality of mail service by developing technology systems that bring transparency to the mail processing system and delivery chain. It also manages the system for incentive-based payments between postal operators and creates business intelligence for its members, by providing a range of platforms for CEOs and senior management to exchange best practices, discuss strategy and engage in industry research. IPC represents the majority of the world's mail, with its members delivering about 80 percent of global postal volumes. They also account for nearly 2.4 million jobs. IPC is based in Brussels, Belgium and has an international staff of 60 representing more than 17 countries. IPC is an organisation governed by a board comprised of CEOs from eleven member posts and the IPC Chief Executive Officer.

For more information on these and other IPC member post environmental and corporate sustainability initiatives already in progress, visit [www.ipc.be](http://www.ipc.be) and go to Sustainability.

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### **3. PARKER v. U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

LINDA A. PARKER, Petitioner,  
v.  
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, Respondent.

No. 2009-3251.

United States Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit.

Decided: December 10, 2009.

Linda A. Parker, of Fayetteville, Georgia, pro se.

David D'Alessandris, Trial Attorney, Commercial Litigation Branch, Civil Division, United States Department of Justice, of Washington, DC, for respondent. With him on the brief were Tony West, Assistant Attorney General, Jeanne E. Davidson, Director, and Bryant G. Snee, Deputy Director.

Before MAYER, PLAGER, and DYK, Circuit Judges.  
This disposition is nonprecedential.

PER CURIAM.

Linda A. Parker ("Parker") appeals the final order of the Merit Systems Protection Board ("Board") sustaining the decision of the United States Postal Service ("agency") demoting her from the position of Supervisor to Clerk. See Parker v. U.S. Postal Serv., No. AT-0752-09-0108-I-1 (M.S.P.B. June 23, 2009) ("Final Order"). We affirm.

BACKGROUND

Parker was employed by the agency as a Supervisor at the Church Street Branch of the Riverdale, Georgia post office. On October 25, 2008, she was demoted to the position of Clerk based on charges of unsatisfactory performance and failure to follow instructions. The first specification supporting the charges was Parker's failure to follow instructions that directed her to "perform a full office proficiency and street count on one route weekly starting March 24, 2008." Id. at 2 (quotation marks omitted). This required Parker to monitor the sorting and delivery of mail, and ride along on postal routes to perform the count. Parker v. U.S. Postal Serv., No. AT-0752-09-0108-I-1, slip op. at 3 (M.S.P.B. Mar. 6, 2009) ("Initial Decision"); Resp't's Br. 3. The second specification, also a basis for both charges, involved Parker's alleged continuing failure to "clear" clock ring errors on a daily basis. Initial Decision at 2. Agency employees such as mail carriers must clock in at work, creating "clock ring entries." An error can be caused due to various reasons, such as when someone forgets to clock in when he initially arrives at work. The failure to clear such errors could jeopardize the agency's ability to accurately track employee time and pay. Resp't's App. 37.

Parker appealed the demotion to the Board, and in an initial decision, the Administrative Judge ("AJ") sustained both charges as to the first specification, but found that the agency had failed to prove the second specification. Initial Decision at 2-3. The agency deciding official testified that he considered the relevant Douglas factors, see Douglas v. Veterans Admin., 5 M.S.P.R. 280, 305-06 (1981) (addressing the appropriateness of a penalty), in selecting the original penalty and that he would have still imposed demotion absent the clock ring specification. However, the AJ found that the agency's penalty determination of demotion was not entitled to deference because of the failure to establish the clock ring specification, and mitigated the penalty to a thirty-day suspension. Initial Decision at 4. On review, the full Board reversed the AJ and upheld the demotion, crediting the

agency's testimony that it would have imposed the same penalty without the clock ring specification. Final Order at 4.

Parker timely petitioned for review of the Board's decision in our court. We have jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1295(a)(9) and 5 U.S.C. § 7703(b)(1).

#### DISCUSSION

The scope of our review in an appeal from a Board decision is limited. We can only set aside the Board's decision if it was "(1) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law; (2) obtained without procedures required by law, rule, or regulation having been followed; or (3) unsupported by substantial evidence." 5 U.S.C. § 7703(c).

On appeal, Parker challenges only the penalty imposed against her, not the Board's findings sustaining the charges. As such, we accept the Board's findings that the first specification was proven, that the second was not, and that both the unsatisfactory performance charge and the failure to follow instructions charge were established.

Parker urges that the Board erred in sustaining her demotion because fewer than all of the specifications asserted against her were proven. In doing so, she argues that her case is no different than one in which fewer than all of the charges were sustained. In such cases, the nexus between the charges brought by an agency and the penalty imposed may be severed. Thus, remand on the penalty issue may be appropriate in some cases. *Lachance v. Devall*, 178 F.3d 1246, 1259 (Fed. Cir. 1999); see also *Russo v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 284 F.3d 1304, 1310 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Even if such a rule applied to Parker's case, "when the agency makes . . . clear before the Board" that "the agency itself would have imposed the same penalty on the basis of the sustained charges that it chose on the basis of the combined charges," the nexus is not severed and the agency's chosen penalty is entitled to deference. *Lachance*, 178 F.3d at 1259. Here, the agency deciding official testified that "[i]f there had been no allegations concerning clock ring errors," the penalty he imposed on Parker "would have still been the same." Resp't's App. 25. Thus, the Board's decision to sustain the demotion was supported by substantial evidence and was not arbitrary, capricious, or an abuse of discretion.

For the aforementioned reasons, we affirm the Board's decision.

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#### **4. Contract Award- AT&T - \$120 Million - Postal Service**

Posted by Michael Cheek on December 11, 2009 · Leave a Comment

The US Postal Service has awarded AT&T Government Solutions a contract to provide managed network services. The \$120 million contract extension is under the Postal Advanced Telecommunications contract and is for a four year period.

Under the contract, AT&T will provide services such as design and engineering, onsite installation, IP address management and Interactive Voice Response. Also, the Multiprotocol Label Switching-enabled network will continue to service the Postal Service.

Don Herring, SVP of AT&T Government Solutions, said "To meet the continued demand for bandwidth, agencies like the U.S. Postal Service must be able to enhance their networks in an efficient and cost-effective manner. AT&T has a proven track record of helping companies transform their operations with choice and simplicity, enabling them to better serve customers."

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## **5. Royal Mail profits rise despite postal fall**

Graeme Wearden

guardian.co.uk, Thursday 10 December 2009 10.15 GMT

Royal Mail Group has grown its profits by £7m in the first half of the financial year despite another fall in the amount of post being sent in the UK.

The chief executive, Adam Crozier, claimed that the process of modernising Royal Mail was paying off, after it reported an operating profit of £184m for the six months to the end of September. That is 4% more than last year's £177m.

"We have come a very long way since seven years ago when the company was losing more than £1m every working day and failing quality targets to the position today where all four businesses within the group are profitable and – setting aside the impact of the recent strikes – quality targets are being met," Crozier said.

Union leaders argued that the performance showed that workers have been co-operating with Royal Mail's leadership, rather than blocking modernisation.

"Postal workers are now working harder than ever before," said Dave Ward, deputy general secretary of the Communication Workers Union.

"We believe they deserve to be rewarded for the success they have brought to this change process. A pay freeze is no way to thank staff who have seen colleagues leave and workloads rise."

Royal Mail's profits would have been even higher, had it not been for the impact of the recession on General Logistics Systems, its European parcels division. Profits at GLS fell by almost a quarter, from £59m to £45m.

The figures also showed another decline in the number of letters being sent in Britain. Royal Mail delivered an average of 72m letters a day between April and September, 3m a day less than the previous year, and nearly 15% below the peak of 84m a day in 2006.

Today's figures do not show the damage caused by this autumn's nationwide industrial action, which began in October. Royal Mail says is it too early to say what the impact of the strikes will be on profitability.

The Communications Workers Union called members out on strike in protest at the impact of Royal Mail's modernisation plans. In November the two sides agreed a temporary deal under which there would be no more disruption until the new year. Royal Mail, though, pledged to continue pushing for increased efficiency.

"Change is difficult for everyone but Royal Mail has no alternative but to change and modernise if it is to compete in today's highly competitive communications market and keep on delivering the postal service on which so many depend," Crozier said.

This policy led to 5,000 people leaving Royal Mail during the half year.

Royal Mail's pension fund – which is estimated to have swelled to £10bn – continues to drain resources out of the organisation.

"The Royal Mail pension plan, which last financial year consumed more than £800m in cash, remains a daunting challenge to fund," it admitted. Last week, Royal Mail was reported to be considering the sale of its stake in lottery operator Camelot, which could raise up to £85m.

The Department for Business said Royal Mail must continue with its modernisation plans.

"The strikes and threat of strikes in the second half of the year will not have helped the situation as businesses rushed to find other ways to communicate with their customers or used other postal operators. The figures show that a successful outcome to the current modernisation talks between the management and the unions is vital to Royal Mail's future," the department said.

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## **6. Where in the world is 94404?**

December 10, 2009, 02:37 AM By Bill Silverfarb

Former Foster City mayor John Kiramis had a mission a couple of years ago. He wanted the city he lived in for more than 20 years to have its own ZIP code.

He thought he had succeeded in that quest but it appears some in Foster City, including business owner Norman Golden, are still having their mail shipped to addresses in a sliver of San Mateo that shares the 94404 ZIP code.

Kiramis took up the effort with the U.S. Postal Service to have ZIP code 94404 dedicated to Foster City in late 2007. It was an idea brought to him by a couple of his constituents. He solicited the help of senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and then county supervisor Jerry Hill (now an assemblyman) to put pressure on the Postal Service to designate 94404 as Foster City's official ZIP code.

The Foster City Council even passed a resolution in January 2008 seeking a separate ZIP code.

Somehow, the White House got a copy of Foster City's resolution and a meeting was set up with Postal Service representatives and a couple of members of the Foster City Council, according to Kiramis.

The solution was simple.

"We give them a list of all Foster City streets and addresses and they change the first default in their computer from San Mateo to Foster City without affecting San Mateo," Kiramis wrote in a op-ed piece published in the Daily Journal Sept. 5, 2008.

Apparently, the solution is not that simple.

Golden owns a tax preparation business on East Hillsdale Boulevard in Foster City and has had problems for years with losing his mail or having it delayed for weeks. He even has trouble placing orders online when he punches in the 94404 ZIP code because it defaults to San Mateo. He also had trouble with the Yellow Pages, who he said could not list his business as being in Foster City because 94404 defaulted to San Mateo.

Golden even quit Foster City's Chamber of Commerce because he felt it was not being responsive to his ZIP code troubles.

"My mail would go on a cruise for weeks before it was finally delivered," Golden said. The business owner even took up the issue at City Hall himself and now uses the nine digit ZIP code 94404-1688 on all of his mail.

All mail delivered in the 94404 ZIP code comes out of the Delaware Street Post Office in San Mateo. None of it is delivered out of the Foster City Post Office.

City Manager Jim Hardy was told the Postal Service does not always follow political jurisdictions.

"It would be nice if we had our own ZIP code like Belmont does," Hardy said.

This problem is not new, said Councilwoman Linda Koelling. "Former councilmember Kiramis tried to change this but did not succeed. The ZIP code covers part of San Mateo and Foster City and if you type in an address for Foster City, the ZIP says San Mateo. It's not right but I don't see the Post Office changing this. It can be an inconvenience," Koelling responded by e-mail.

The Postal Service did discover that there were some addresses in Foster City that showed up as being in San Mateo. The Postal Service also sells address information on compact disc to companies that do bulk mailing and some of those companies may be using outdated discs, Hardy said.

94404 covers all residences in Foster City, Mariners Island and the area around the Bridgepointe Shopping Center which sits in San Mateo.

"The Postal Service did not acquiesce and give 94404 to Foster City," Hardy said.

In the meantime, Christopher Williams, at the Delaware Postal Service branch, said a simple phone call could fix the problem.

"The ZIP code is shared," Williams said. "But it should have no bearing on him receiving his mail. A request could be made to the address management system to correct a problem if there is one."

Burlingame and Hillsborough also share a ZIP code.

Foster City Councilman Art Kiesel had not heard that the mail mishaps were still taking place. He did say, however, "it would be nice that Foster City had its own ZIP code."

Kiramis, incidentally, no longer lives in Foster City. He and his wife moved to Southern California a couple months ago.

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## **7. Excerpts: The Freeze of Postal Privatization**

Japan's new government pushed through parliament a law freezing next year's planned sale of shares in Japan Post, steering it away from the corporate, profit-driven path it has been following. Read what key figures have said in recent interviews.

Yoshifumi Nishikawa

Former president of Japan Post Holdings Co.

Interview Dec. 3:

"I can't understand at all why privatization has been halted. It is a huge waste."

"The post offices are not in condition to cover the cost."

"So changing fund management in haste is difficult -- it has to be done gradually, maintaining the balance in the market."

"Japan Post management will revert to the original government-run style."

Shizuka Kamei

Financial Services and Postal Reform Minister

Press briefing, Dec. 1:

"Managing Japan Post's entry into new businesses is difficult and foreign companies are temperamental about me. They worry about ...

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Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

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