

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

PUBLIC INQUIRY ON CHANGES ASSOCIATED
WITH THE DELIVERING FOR AMERICA PLAN

Docket No. PI2023-4

**NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL
RESPONSE TO QUESTION 8 OF CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 5**
(December 11, 2023)

The United States Postal Service (Postal Service) hereby provides notice of additions to the response to Question 8 of Chairman's Information Request (ChIR) No. 5 in the instant docket, originally submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) on December 4, 2023.

In ChIR No. 5, Question 8, the Commission requested the percentage of Single-Piece First-Class Mail impacted by optimized collection. The Postal Service indicated in the response submitted on December 4, 2023, that volume information regarding the percentage of Single-Piece First-Class Mail at facilities in the Richmond region subject to optimized collection was being calculated and would soon be provided to the Commission. In the supplemental response below, the requested percentages are provided; differences in the text are highlighted in gray. Please note that, as emphasized in the response below, the Postal Service continues to evaluate the volume of Single-Piece First-Class Mail at facilities in the Richmond region subject to optimized collection and may make adjustments as necessary and warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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**USPS Supplemental Response to Chairman's Information Request No. 5,
Question 8**

8. Please discuss how the Optimized Collections Plan will impact the service performance of First-Class Mail. With the response, please include the percentage of Single-Piece First-Class Mail that would be impacted and explain how it will be impacted. Additionally, please discuss the Postal Service's expectations of how the length of time between customer drop-off or carrier collection of Single-Piece First-Class Mail and the first processing (start-the-clock) scan for those same mail pieces will be impacted by the Optimized Collections Plan.

RESPONSE:

The purpose of the Optimized Collections initiative is to improve the efficiency of the local transportation network under the existing First-Class Mail service standards that were implemented following publication of the DFA Plan. The Postal Service is not changing the "start-the-clock" for First-Class Mail, or changing the application of the current service standards.

The Postal Service does not anticipate material impacts to First-Class Mail service performance from implementation of this initiative. As an initial matter, the Postal Service currently delivers a significant portion of First-Class Mail in advance of our service standards, which reduces risk to our service performance in implementation of this initiative. Moreover, implementation of this initiative will further enhance our operational practices and therefore our ability to improve our service performance generally, including for all First-Class Mail. Under our existing processes, much of our Single-Piece First-Class Mail volume is dispatched from originating delivery units in the evening, creating a compressed volume arrival profile into the processing facility that can put a significant amount of volume at risk of not being processed on time to meet

the scheduled dispatch. After implementing Optimized Collections, larger volumes of mail and packages will be available for processing in a late morning or afternoon window, spreading the volume arrival profile into the originating processing facility and removing some processing demand from peak operating hours, thus more effectively utilizing our overall processing capacity within our plants. In addition, while some First-Class Mail would receive originating processing later than it would have been processed in a pre-optimization environment, the Postal Service will continue to assess all aspects of our network and make appropriate adjustments (e.g., network transportation schedules may be adjusted to take advantage of the earlier originating processing window), and otherwise continue to improve the precision of our operating practices throughout the network to ensure strong First-Class Mail service performance under the existing standards.

While short-term impacts to service performance during the execution process may occur, the Postal Service will monitor any impacts that occur, and may make adjustments as necessary and warranted.

In terms of affected volume, it is important to note that this cannot be determined for any particular geographic area until after determinations are made regarding which specific locations will be subject to optimization, based on application of the criteria discussed in Question 4, including whether to create exceptions for a particular location based on operational and other considerations, such as volume. **Please see below volume**

information regarding the percentage of Single-Piece First-Class Mail at facilities in the Richmond region subject to optimized collection:

Route Status	SPFC Density Percent (Richmond)
Fully Optimized	9%
Hybrid Optimization	22%
No Optimization	68%
Total	100%

These figures reflect the current status of the initiative within Richmond, concerning the locations subject to Full, Hybrid, or No Optimization. Because the Postal Service continues to monitor Optimized Collections and may make adjustments as necessary and warranted, the status of particular locations may change.