



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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Date: August 10, 2011
To: Local Presidents
From: John F. Hegarty, National President
William J. Flynn, Manager, CAD
RE: Network Changes

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LOCAL 308

The National Office received a briefing yesterday at Postal Headquarters regarding management's ongoing development of plans to close or consolidate a large number of mail processing facilities. You will note that this drastic action was recommended in a recent OIG report, and has been discussed as far back as 2003 in various forums.

Postal management has suggested that these changes to the mail processing network, and accompanying changes in service standards, are necessary because of continuing declines in mail volume (particularly in First Class mail), and in light of inaction by Congress in not providing the Postal Service with needed financial relief related to the Retiree Health Benefits Fund and overpayments to the CSRS and FERS pension funds. Postal management also has informed us that changes to the mail processing network and service standards may be proposed as early as September or October, although there remains little public information about the actual scope of the plan or the specific locations that may be targeted. It bears noting, however, that if the Postal Service carries through with its threat to change service standards, and if such a change were to be approved, then the Postal Service could attempt to initiate closings and/or consolidations of 50 percent or more of the plants across the United States, possibly within the next year or two.

The National Office will continue to gather specific information, and will develop a strategic response to these efforts. You can be assured that these matters will be discussed in greater detail at next week's Semi-Annual Meeting of the Local Unions in Milwaukee.

Please feel free to disseminate this information as you deem appropriate.

Cc: National Executive Board
National and Regional CAD

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