

With Moratorium Expired, USPS Moves Forward with Facility Closures and Consolidations

At the conclusion of its self-imposed May 15, 2012 moratorium on closures and consolidations of its mail processing facilities, the USPS announced on May 17, 2012 its “modified network plan,” which sets forth its multi-phased implementation plan to realign its network of facilities. On that date, the Postal Service issued its list of 140 mail processing facilities to be impacted during Phase 1 under this amended closure and consolidation plan. Release of that list was accompanied by other informational documents, and was soon followed by details regarding the logistics for several dozen closings or consolidations this August, as well as a plan for additional closings or consolidations beginning early in 2013.

As noted, the earlier moratorium on closures and consolidations adopted by the Postal Service expired on May 15, 2012, and absent any final Congressional action to intercede in the process, the Postal Service decided to move forward with its first round of consolidations. The original listing of 252 potentially impacted mail processing facilities (as announced by USPS on February 23, 2012) has now been pared down to a total of 229 facilities:

Phase 1 includes 48 facilities this summer and 92 facilities in 2013. Phase 2 will include another 89 facilities in 2014.

NPMHU officers and representatives have been discussing and preparing for the eventuality of this closure and consolidation plan, and are prepared to enforce all NPMHU contractual provisions relative to the excessing of employees that will take place under this plan. “We intend to work closely with those Locals affected by the August closings and consolidations” said President John Hegarty, “and, as always, it will be imperative that we enforce the contract to ensure that all Mail Handler rights are protected.”

Please visit the NPMHU website to review copies of the lists of affected facilities, and to learn more about the scope of this amended closure and consolidation plan. Also note that, in accordance with the MOU recently signed with regard to retirement incentives, there is now in place a moratorium on excessing in all facilities until at least August 11, 2012 (unless excessing was previously scheduled).



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