



November 17, 2008

Mr. William Burrus
President
American Postal Workers
Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-4128

Sent by Certified Mail
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Dear Bill:

This letter is an informational notice of the Postal Service's intent to conduct an Area Mail Processing (AMP) study of the mail processing at the Lakeland and Manasota, Florida Processing and Distribution Centers (P&DCs) for consideration of possible consolidation of some of their operations into the Tampa, Florida P&DC.

An AMP study involves the review of mail processing and transportation operations at a postal facility. The reason for this type of study is to review mail volume and determine capacity needs in order to increase efficiency and improve productivity. These studies are a part of the Postal Service's efforts to find ways to be able to continue providing universal service to our customers at a reasonable cost in the future.

The Postal Service is facing one of the most difficult challenges in its history. There has been a continual decline in single-piece First Class Mail volumes over the past decade. The current economic downturn has led to an even greater decline in mailing volume with the loss of over 9 billion pieces in this past year alone. The Postal Service has to realign its processing and delivery network to match its resources with current mail volume. 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.

This letter is solely intended to provide you with the information that we plan to conduct the study. If the business case supports consolidation, a public meeting will be held to allow members of the community to ask questions and provide feedback. Community input will be considered before a decision is made as to whether or not the proposed consolidation should be implemented. This letter is not intended as notice of future changes in mail processing and is not a notice of impact on employees. You will be provided with the appropriate notice, if any is required, when a decision is made.

If there are any questions concerning this AMP feasibility study, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Adona of my staff at (202) 268-3800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Dockins". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John W. Dockins
Manager
Contract Administration (APWU)

