

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters

This article is from APWU Web News Article 022-2012, March 23, 2012 The Senate Vote on Postal Bill S. 1789 Could Be Taken on Monday.

An amended version of a controversial postal bill (S. 1789) is tentatively scheduled for a vote during the week of March 26, and could be brought to the Senate floor as early as Monday, APWU Legislative and Political Director Myke Reid is reporting.

Details of the final bill are unknown, however. The bill's sponsors have been meeting to discuss possible amendments, but have not released information about their discussions.

The APWU is asking union members to be vigilant and to check the APWU Web site frequently for updates. "The situation could change very rapidly, so it is important that union members remain alert," Reid said. "We may need to respond to an announcement quickly."

The APWU was sharply critical of the original bill, and supported amendments to set strict service standards; allow the USPS to recover overpayments the Postal Service made to its retiree pension funds; adequately address the requirement that forces the USPS to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, and establish new ways to generate revenue, among others. The issue of service standards is crucial, because the Postal Service is planning to degrade delivery standards in order to eliminate more than half of all mail processing facilities.

This letter is from Chairman Ruth Y. Goldway, of the Postal Regulatory Commission

On December 5, 2011, the Postal Service proposed to change the "service standards" that govern how long it takes for the mail to be delivered. The Commission is now reviewing the proposal (Docket N2012-1). The most significant revisions would eliminate overnight service for First-Class Mail and Periodicals, and would instead provide two and three day delivery service. The intent of these changes is to capture significant cost savings from the consolidation of the Postal Service's mail processing and transportation networks. This proposal will impact in significant but varying ways, the mail service, all business mailers, and the mailing public.

My fellow Commissioners and I will review the proposed service standards along with the Postal Service's evidence and justifications in this filing. We will listen to testimony at public hearings and then render our Advisory Opinion based on evidence developed in the case. We encourage interested members of the public to participate in the process.

It is important to note that the Commission does not review individual closures of mail processing facilities. I have sent a letter to members of Congress to clarify our role in this process. Look to the left in the What's New column to read a copy of this letter. Please let us hear from you.

If, the current first class delivery standard gets changed to the purposed two or three day delivery. There will be a lot of changes in the Plant. Last Friday morning I had a meeting with

(A) Lead MDO, Martha St, Germaine and Bob Conroy they told me there plan if the first class standard gets changed.

Here is what the Services plan is;

Tour 2, Automated Letters start time will be 8:00am. Tour 2 Flats start time will be 8:00am

Tour 3, Automated Letters start time will be 4:30pm. Tour 3 Flats start time will be 4:30pm.

Tour 1, Handcase, Manual Flats, and Pouch bins start time will change from 9:30pm to 5:30pm this action will require and abolishment of these positions. Jobs with the new start time will have to be posted for the whole Installation to bid on.

Tour 1, Automated Letters all but 16 to 20 jobs will be abolished and new jobs for the whole Installation to bid on will be posted between Tour 2 and 3. The number of jobs on each tour was not told to me. Tour 1, automation runs on a nightly basis 30 DBCS's the Service wants to reduce that number to 24 DBCS's machines.

Tour 1, Flats as of the meeting all jobs will be abolished they are still thinking. They are still thinking about whether or to leaving a crew to staff one machine on Tour 1. That has not been decided yet.

There will be changes in Maintenance Craft and MVS Craft as well, what those changes will be was not expressed to me during the meeting.

Could Members be excessed a crossed craft lines or out of the Installation that is always a possibility. Bottom line changes that are coming and the changes that are coming are from Management and not the Union.

Rests assure that the Officers and stewards will make sure the Service follow the National Agreement. Nothing in that meeting was agreed too.

The time has come for every member of this local to get involved with the future of this Union and the Postal Service to protect our jobs. We are asking every member to write, call, and email their Senators and Congressmen to not change the delivery standards. The Local will be forming a Committee to address the delivery standards we will be formatting a letter for you to sign and send to your Senators and Congressmen. The Officers and Stewards will do their part to protect our jobs now is the time for the whole membership to join in the fight to protect our jobs. If, not you, who will protect your jobs?

Let me say this once again **NOTHING ABOUT THE SERVICES PLAN HAS BEEN AGREED TOO.**

In Union Solitary

Raymond Kearns