

rec'd 6/5/2011



B. J. Murphy
Mayor, City of Kinston
PO Box 339
Kinston, NC 28504-0339

May 25, 2011

Dear Mayor Murphy:

Thank you for your feedback regarding the Area Mail Processing (AMP) feasibility study being conducted for the Kinston Processing & Distribution Facility. As you know, the study is still under review, and no decision has been made at this time.

I understand your concerns regarding the procedures for requesting public input and your determination that "insufficient information" was supplied by the Postal Service. Although the public does have a right to general information as to how projected savings would be achieved, much of the information included in the feasibility study is proprietary. Both draft and final AMP worksheets can contain commercially sensitive information, the public disclosure of which could cause competitive harm to the Postal Service. The study includes operations, volume and service performance statistics, or other information from which such data may be derived. Accordingly, neither draft nor final copies of AMP worksheets are to be publicly disclosed before they have been reviewed and sensitive data redacted from copies intended for disclosure. The general PowerPoint presentations posted online serve as an overview of the proposed study, with emphasis on the projected results if the study is approved.

With regards to the annual savings projected for transportation costs, please keep in mind the previous AMP study called for all Outgoing mail to be processed in Fayetteville and transported back to Kinston. Therefore, much of the transportation for that mail is already in place because the mail currently goes to Fayetteville and returns to Kinston after processing. It is also important to note our current transportation plans include trips from Kinston to destinations other than Fayetteville. By processing all of the mail in Fayetteville, we could eliminate one of these trips altogether, and reroute several others. The savings from these modifications total in the millions, based on current gas prices.

As the mayor of Kinston, I can appreciate your apprehension regarding the potential loss of jobs in the Kinston area. However, there are still several variables to be considered if the study is approved. Most importantly, as I indicated to the employees and citizens at the community meeting, the plans would not be implemented for at least a year after approval. We do not expect a response to the proposed study before the early summer. Due to normal attrition, we have had positions vacated in Kinston and surrounding areas, and we expect that to continue for the coming year. As these positions become available, employees may choose to bid on jobs in retail and delivery units in Kinston or neighboring towns. We share your concerns about moving employees and their families, and our goal is

to make sound business decisions, while still considering the people who will be impacted by those decisions.

The Postal Service is faced with tough choices as we work to become leaner and more efficient. Because we do not receive any taxes or federal subsidy, it is imperative we continue to look for ways we can save money without compromising service to our customers. Consolidating our mail processing is one of several opportunities we are exploring to accomplish this goal.

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments. Your input is valuable and will be forwarded to the Area Vice President for consideration. Further review by the Office of the Vice President Consumer Advocate will ensure that it receives adequate attention. Again, we do not know the outcome of the proposal at this time, but we will make you and the citizens of Kinston aware when a decision is rendered.

Sincerely,



Angela H. Curtis