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FOR INFORMATION REGARDING

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION—CONTACT:

Cyrus S. Benson, Team Leader, Publications Team, RIS Support Services, (202) 606-0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

[FR Doc. 04-4737 Filed 3-2-04; 8:45 am]

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**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT**

**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request for Review of a
Revised Information Collection: SF
2823**

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for review of a revised information collection. SF 2823, Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, is used by any Federal employee or retiree covered by the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program to instruct the Office of Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance how to distribute the proceeds of his or her life insurance when the statutory order of precedence does not meet his or her needs.

Approximately 47,000 SF 2823 forms are completed annually by annuitants and 1,000 forms are completed by assignees. Each form takes approximately 15 minutes to complete for an annual estimated burden of 12,000 hours.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, FAX (202) 418-3251 or via E-mail to mbtoomey@opm.gov. Please include a mailing address with your request.

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received within 30 calendar days from the date of this publication.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to:

Christopher N. Meuchner, Life Insurance & Long Term Care Group, Center for Retirement and Insurance Services, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 2H22, Washington, DC 20415-3661, and

Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Office, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management & Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

For Information Regarding

Administrative Coordination Contact:

Cyrus S. Benson, Team Leader, Publications Team, Support Group, (202) 606-0623.

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. MC2004-1; Order No. 1392]

Experimental Mail Classification Case

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice and order on new experimental docket.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of a Postal Service request for several changes affecting Periodicals mailers. It also addresses related preliminary procedural matters, including authorization of settlement discussions. One proposal would extend alternative experimental discounts to co-palletized, dropshipped Periodicals publications exhibiting a relatively heavy-weight, high-editorial, small-circulation profile. Another proposal would extend the expiration date of the current Periodicals co-palletization experiment, thereby establishing coinciding expiration dates. A third proposal would allow sample copies of Periodicals publications to be mailed with parcels at Parcel Post or Bound Printed Matter rates. Publication of this notice will allow interested parties to determine their position on the Postal Service's request.

DATES:

1. March 17, 2004: deadline for intervention.

2. March 19, 2004: deadline for (a) answers to Postal Service motion for waiver, and (b) comments on Postal Service request for experimental treatment.

3. March 18-19 and March 22-23, 2004: settlement conferences (as needed).

4. March 25, 2004: prehearing conference at 10 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Submit documents electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202-789-6818.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory History

See 67 FR 62993 (October 9, 2002).

On February 25, 2004, the United States Postal Service filed a request seeking a recommended decision from the Postal Rate Commission approving an experimental mail classification, along with related discounts, for certain high-editorial, heavy-weight, small-circulation Periodicals mail that is co-palletized and dropshipped.¹ The Request further proposes a modification to the expiration date of the Periodicals co-palletization dropship discounts experiment recommended in Docket No. MC2002-3 such that the expiration date for that experiment and the recommended expiration date for the instant request for experiment expire on the same date. The Request also includes a request for a minor classification change to Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS) § 511, which proposes to allow sample copies of periodicals to be mailed with parcels using Parcel Post or Bound Printed Matter rates. This request is unrelated to the request for experiment. The Request, which includes six attachments, was filed pursuant to chapter 36 of the Postal Reorganization Act, 39 U.S.C. 3601 *et seq.*²

In contemporaneous filings, the Service asks for waiver of certain standard filing requirements (if the Commission deems such waiver is required),³ and seeks expedited consideration of its proposal, including establishment of procedures for settlement.⁴ The Service's request for expedition is in addition to that generally available under the Commission's experimental rules (39

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for a Recommended Decision on Experimental Periodicals Co-Palletization Dropship Discounts for High-Editorial, Heavy-Weight, Small-Circulation Publications, February 25, 2004 (Request).

² Attachments A and B to the Request contain proposed changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the associated rate and fee schedules; Attachment C references the United States Certified Financial Statements for the Years Ended September 30, 2003, and September 30, 2002; Attachment D is the certification required by Commission rule 54(p); Attachment E is an index of testimony and exhibits; and Attachment F is a compliance statement addressing satisfaction of various filing requirements.

³ Statement of the United States Postal Service Concerning Compliance with Filing Requirements and Conditional Motion for Waiver, February 25, 2004 (Motion for Waiver).

⁴ United States Postal Service Request for Expedition and Establishment of Settlement Procedures, February 25, 2004 (Request for Expedition).