

SSNs on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 6, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov). Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to RIN 2900-AR19-Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017 Implementation. Comments received will be available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) for public viewing, inspection or copies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy L. Rose, Program Analyst, VA Privacy Service, 005R1A, 811 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 237-5070. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017 (the Act) (Pub L. 115-59; 42 U.S.C. 405 note), which was signed on September 15, 2017, restricts federal agencies from including individuals' SSNs on documents sent by mail unless the head of the agency determines that the inclusion of the SSN on the document is necessary (section 2(a) of the Act). The Act requires agency heads to issue regulations specifying the circumstances under which inclusion of an SSN on a document sent by mail is necessary. These regulations, which must be issued not later than five years after the date of enactment, shall include instructions for the partial redaction of SSNs where feasible, and shall require that SSNs not be visible on the outside of any package sent by mail (section 2(b) of the Act). This proposed rule would revise the Department regulations under the Privacy Act (38 CFR 1.575), consistent with these requirements in the Act. The proposed revisions would clarify the language of procedural requirements pertaining to the inclusion of SSNs on documents that the Department sends by mail.

#### Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review) emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. The Office of

Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined that this rule is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866. The Regulatory Impact Analysis associated with this rulemaking can be found as a supporting document at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612). The factual basis for this certification is that the regulation only governs the circumstances under which the Department includes SSNs in mail issued by the Department. The behavior of small entities is not addressed in the regulation and is therefore not impacted. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of 5 U.S.C. 603 and 604 do not apply.

#### Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any one year. This proposed rule will have no such effect on State, local, and tribal governments, or on the private sector.

#### Paperwork Reduction Act

This proposed rule contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521).

#### Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

There are no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance numbers and titles for this rule.

#### List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 1

Disability benefits, Pensions, Veterans.

#### Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on September 24, 2021, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication

electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### Luvenia Potts,

*Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to amend 38 CFR 1.575, as set forth below:

#### PART 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

■ 1. Revise the authority citation for part 1 to read as follows:

**Authority:** 38 U.S.C. 5101, and as noted in specific sections.

■ 2. Amend § 1.575 by adding paragraph (d) to read as follows:

#### § 1.575 Social Security Numbers in Veterans' Benefits Matters.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) A document the Department sends by mail may not include the social security number of an individual except as provided below:

(1) The social security number must be truncated to no more than the last four digits; or

(2) If truncation of the social security number is not feasible:

(i) The Senior Agency Official for Privacy, the Chief Privacy Officer, and the Social Security Number Advisory Board (SSNAB) must jointly determine that inclusion of the social security number on the document is necessary as required by law; to comply with another legal mandate; to identify a specific individual where no adequate substitute is available; or to fulfill a compelling Department business need;

(ii) The document that includes the complete social security number of an individual must be listed on the Complete Social Security Number Mailed Documents Listing on a publicly available website; and

(iii) No portion of the social security number may be visible on the outside of any mailing.

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#### POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

#### 39 CFR Part 3050

[Docket No. RM2021-9; Order No. 5992]

#### Periodic Reporting

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is acknowledging a recent filing requesting

the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding to consider changes to analytical principles relating to periodic reports (Proposal Six). This document informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* October 28, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Table of Contents**

- I. Introduction
- II. Proposal Six
- III. Notice and Comment
- IV. Ordering Paragraphs

**I. Introduction**

On September 28, 2021, the Postal Service filed a petition pursuant to 39 CFR 3050.11 requesting that the Commission initiate a rulemaking proceeding to consider changes to analytical principles relating to periodic reports.<sup>1</sup> The Petition identifies the proposed analytical changes filed in this docket as Proposal Six.

**II. Proposal Six**

**Background.** The Postal Service estimates the mail processing costs avoided due to mailer workshare activities for First-Class Mail presort letters and cards using the First-Class Mail letters mail processing cost model. Petition, Proposal Six at 1. The Postal Service determines the avoided costs for each workshare discount through modeling of the typical mail processing flow of First-Class Mail presort letters and cards by rate category. *Id.*

Historically, the Postal Service has offered a single price for First-Class Mail nonautomation presort categories. *Id.* However, in Docket No. R2021-2, the Postal Service restructured its pricing for the First-Class Mail presort categories, creating separate prices for Nonmachinable 5-Digit letters, Nonmachinable 3-Digit Letters, Nonmachinable mixed area distribution center (MADC) Letters, Nonautomation

Machinable automated area distribution center (AADC) Letters, and Nonautomation Machinable mixed automation area distribution center (MAADC) Letters.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission accepted the proposed changes to the Mail Classification Schedule associated with this new rate structure but determined that the Metered Letters benchmark was not appropriate for determining the costs avoided by the new Nonautomation Machinable Letters Mixed AADC and Nonmachinable Letters Mixed area distribution center (ADC) workshare discounts.<sup>3</sup> For this reason, the Commission directed the Postal Service develop a methodology to disaggregate the Metered Letters benchmark into the machinable and nonmachinable components within 90 days of Order No. 5937. *Id.*

**Proposal.** With Proposal Six, the Postal Service seeks to revise the First-Class Mail letters mail processing cost model to disaggregate metered mail into machinable and nonmachinable categories. Petition, Proposal Six at 2. Citing data limitations, the Postal Service proposes to disaggregate the costs between these pricing categories through modeling. *Id.* at 3. The Postal Service notes that “[t]he same methodology that is used to disaggregate [In-Office Cost System]-derived mail processing unit costs for First-Class presorted letter costs by rate category is used to disaggregate metered mail letter costs by machinability in this proposal.” *Id.* The Postal Service's adjusted model is included with the Petition. See Excel file USPS-FY20-10 FCM Letters Prop 6.xlsx.

**Impact.** The impacts of Proposal Six are outlined in Table 1 and Table 2 of the proposal. Petition, Proposal Six at 4-5. The Postal Service estimates that the worksharing related unit costs will be 13.123 cents for Machinable Metered Letters and 44.824 cents for Nonmachinable Metered Letters. *Id.* at 4. Avoided costs will decrease \$0.001 for Automation Mixed AADC Letters and \$0.002 for Nonautomation Machinable Mixed AADC Letters. *Id.* at 5. The Postal Service estimates \$0.101 in avoided costs for Nonautomation Nonmachinable Mixed ADC Letters. *Id.*

<sup>2</sup> Docket No. R2021-2, United States Postal Service Notice of Market-Dominant Price Change, May 28, 2021, at 8-9.

<sup>3</sup> Docket No. R2021-2, Order on Price Adjustments for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, Periodicals, Package Services, and Special Services Products and Related Mail Classification Changes, July 19, 2021, at 82 (Order No. 5937).

**III. Notice and Comment**

The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2021-9 for consideration of matters raised by the Petition. More information on the Petition may be accessed via the Commission's website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Interested persons may submit comments on the Petition and Proposal Six no later than October 28, 2021. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Katalin K. Clendenin is designated as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

**IV. Ordering Paragraphs**

*It is ordered:*

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2021-9 for consideration of the matters raised by the Petition of the United States Postal Service for the Initiation of a Proceeding to Consider Proposed Changes in Analytical Principles (Proposal Six), filed September 28, 2021.

2. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than October 28, 2021.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Katalin K. Clendenin to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2021-21757 Filed 10-5-21; 8:45 am]

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**40 CFR Part 82**

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0698; FRL-7826.1-02-OAR]

RIN 2060-AV31

**Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes Under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program; Supplemental Proposal**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Significant New Alternatives Policy program, the Agency is proposing, as an

<sup>1</sup> Petition of the United States Postal Service for the Initiation of a Proceeding to Consider Proposed Changes in Analytical Principles (Proposal Six), September 28, 2021 (Petition).