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Mr. Brian J. Wagner
President
National Association of Postal
Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

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Dear Mr. Wagner:

The Postal Service plans to award multiple suppliers bulk orders to provide Managed Network Services (MNS), as part of a Service-wide upgrade of the organization's Internet and broadband capabilities. An expedited delivery timeline for new service installation is 30 days or less as per the defined business requirements. USPS has approximately 30,000 sites with existing services that may require new technology and upgrading to higher bandwidth connectivity. The majority of the sites are Retail and Delivery, including post offices, stations, and branches, many of which are located in isolated areas far from larger plants where qualified maintenance technicians are typically domiciled. To provide the new MNS at a site, suppliers may be required to perform a SDP extension, which will effectuate a connection between the existing supplier DEMARC/Service Delivery Point (SDP) to a newly designated SDP, which will allow a software defined wide area network (WAN) to be put in place. The SDP is the interconnection between the internet service providers (ISP) network connectivity equipment and the postal network connectivity equipment located within each postal facility. To determine which sites are in scope for this activity, site surveys will be conducted at every site as part of the MNS deliverables by the selected suppliers.

Under the contract terms, the supplier will be responsible for the selection of the parts and equipment necessary to effectuate the connection between the existing supplier DEMARC/SDP to the new designated Service Delivery Point within the postal facility. The supplier will be responsible for the installation, testing, certification, warranty, and ongoing operations of the service, including the DEMARC/SDP extension, if needed.

- If the site survey determines a SDP extension is required because the suppliers network equipment is not located at the minimal point of entry (MPOE), the work will consist of extending cabling within the facility to a point further into the building. The cabling may include fiber optic and/or coaxial cabling, in addition to the replacement of legacy copper T-1 MPLS lines.
- Beginning within 30 days of supplier award in late-June 2021, phase 1 and phase 2 site surveys will begin with approximately 15,500 sites targeted to be complete in April 2022.
 - Phase 1 includes Retail and Delivery Sites
 - Phase 2 includes Plants
- Phase 3 has the remaining approximately 14,500 sites that will start in 2022.

Significantly, the site surveys, supplier equipment upgrades, and SDP extensions, if required, will be occurring simultaneously across multiple facilities throughout the country. Supplier personnel will

already be on-site conducting the surveys and will have personnel available with the equipment, tools, and specialized training necessary to complete the SDP extensions if it is required.

The Postal Service does not consider this to be bargaining unit work or work routinely or historically performed by postal employees in the bargaining unit. However, even applying the relevant factors and considerations of Article 32, the contracting of the limited one-time cabling extensions at issue would not have a significant impact on the bargaining unit. Moreover, due consideration of the five factors found in Article 32.1.A of the National Agreement, favors the outsourcing of this work, and aligns with the 10-year plan to modernize the Postal Service and achieve financial sustainability and service excellence.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this decision, please contact me at extension 2357.



David E. Mills
Director
Labor Relations Policies & Programs