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Postal Service and National Postal Mail Handlers Union reach tentative contract agreement

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Postal Service and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) have reached a tentative five-year contract agreement. Upon ratification by union members, the agreement will run through Nov. 20, 2011, and affect approximately 55,000 career employees who are engaged in bulk transfer, loading and unloading of mail. The Postal Service and NPMHU formally opened national contract negotiations on Aug. 21, 2006.

“This tentative agreement is fair to our employees, responsive to the needs of the Postal Service, and serves the interests of the public upon whose business we depend,” said Doug Tulino, Postal Service Vice President for Labor Relations. “At the outset of this year’s negotiations we stressed the importance of reaching negotiated settlements. Achieving tentative contract agreements with three of our largest unions demonstrates our commitment to the collective bargaining process,” added Tulino.

Last week, the Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Rural Letters Carriers’ Association (NRLCA) agreed to tentative four-year contracts. Negotiations with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) were not successful and the two parties are entering into the dispute resolution process, which may include binding interest arbitration.

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Since 1775, the United States Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency that visits more than 146 million homes and businesses every day, the Postal Service is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. It receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of \$72 billion, it is the world’s leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world’s mail volume—some 213 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves ten million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

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