

Current status

The Department has not revised its regulations to authorize publicity before commencing site control proceedings and, its publicity releases generally have not provided sufficient details regarding site requirements to have encouraged property owners to offer purchase options to the Department.

Problem 5

The Department had not specified detailed requirements for reviews of regional real estate files and, in many cases, reviewers at regional and headquarters levels had reached decisions or made recommendations without requiring real estate officers to supply complete and adequate data in support of proposed real estate actions.

Recommendation

GAO recommended that, to insure implementation of the policy that real estate actions not be approved unless there is complete and convincing support for the actions proposed, the Department develop guidelines for reviews of real estate files by officials at regional and headquarters levels.

Agency response

The Deputy Postmaster General stated that the Department would take action to develop guidelines for management reviews of real estate files. He stated also that, so that more complete attention could be given to regional reviews, consideration would be given to providing additional personnel to review regional real estate files and cases. Neither of these actions has yet been taken by the Department.

Mr. BROOKS. There is also a GAO report on sites, and one on internal auditing and related activities, which is a management function, I would think. It is a new report. Mr. Nicholson; you probably have just received it in the last couple of weeks.

Mr. NICHOLSON. Yes, sir. My recollection of the reading of it is they found our internal audit operation satisfactory and there were no specific recommendations that I recall.

I think it was an excellent report. It gave us a great deal of satisfaction to find we did receive such a clean bill of health.

Mr. BROOKS. That is heartening.

PART 2.—PROGRAM REVIEW

Turning now to the program breakdown, Mr. Belen, I would appreciate a brief explanation of what each of the programs is and how it is performed. You may want to ask your program directors or the Assistant Postmasters General in the various categories that administer these specific programs to respond to this.

We have about 35 minutes. I would like to wrap this up at 12 noon, so they will have 4 or 5 minutes to give us a thumbnail sketch. How do you want to start?

A. PROGRAM CATEGORY 1—DIRECT SERVICES TO MAILERS

Mr. BELEN. The first category is direct services to mailers. That has some subcategories—combined postal services at small offices, window vending services, collection services, and logistical postal support. The manager is Mr. McMillan and I would ask him to describe it briefly.

Mr. BROOKS. We want to welcome you to the hearing, Mr. McMillan, as a distinguished and longtime public servant. We are delighted to have you here. I want to put exhibit H in the record. It is a fact sheet on this program.

(Exhibit H follows:)