

VER Offering for: March 31, 2009 Effective Retirement Date

Field EAS & Field PCES; Postmasters; Area Office EAS & PCES

The Postal Service recently received approval from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to offer voluntary early retirement to eligible employees nationwide.

Automation and technological advances coupled with mail volume reductions has the Postal Service continuing to look for ways to voluntarily reduce its workforce while maintaining excellent customer service.

This offer is open to employees in those positions who meet the OPM conditions, and who are at least 50 years of age with 20 years of creditable federal service or any age with 25 years of creditable federal service.

Please Note: The age and years of service criteria must be met by the effective retirement date of this VERA: March 31, 2009. If you don't meet the criteria by March 31, 2009, you are not eligible for voluntary early retirement.

For your convenience, a timeline of activity related to this VERA can be found by clicking on [VER Steps At-a-Glance](#). Read through this timeline carefully and consider your retirement options. It's important to note that January 16, 2009 is the date when an employee's voluntary choice to retire becomes irrevocable (cannot be withdrawn) under this VERA.

As a reminder, a voluntary early retirement is just that — voluntary. But if retirement is part of a near-future plan for you, make sure to navigate through all the information on this website and get all the information you need to make an informed decision.

VER Information Sessions

While Local Services won't have any additional information regarding VER eligibility lists, HQ and HRSSC will work together to coordinate and set up information sessions to provide opportunities for Q&A dialogue. VER Information Sessions include reviews of eligibility requirements, the pre-established timeline and the [Retirement Seminar DVD](#). Watch for local announcements within your District on times and locations.

In the meantime, don't waste time; it's your retirement, after all! Look through all the information provided on this website and view the retirement videos along with the workbooks to prepare prior to the VER Information Sessions.

Related Information

[FAQs \(Updated 9/5/08\)](#)

[03/31/09 VER Steps At-a-Glance](#)

[Retirement Videos](#)

Sample VER Documents

[Sample Annuity Estimate Letter](#)

[Sample Offer Letter](#)

[Sample Irrevocability Statement](#)

HRSSC Assistance

We're always here to help but where the VERA is concerned, the HR Shared Service Center cannot verify whether employees are on the eligibility listing or discuss individual questions/concerns until application for early retirement is submitted and approved.

Those employees identified as tentatively meeting eligibility requirements for this VERA will receive annuity estimates and a separate notification package via U. S. Mail at their address of record beginning November 21, 2008.

The notification package will contain important forms, instructions and frequently asked questions (FAQs) which will answer retirement benefits-related questions and help eligible employees make an informed decision.

We want to make sure you receive this important information as well as other official U.S. Postal Service related mailings. Time to update your address of record? [Click here](#) for instructions.

03/31/2009 VER Steps At-a-Glance

This Voluntary Early Retirement offer is not a complicated process but it does require some careful thinking on the part of eligible employees. To help you make an informed decision, please review the following quick steps and important dates. This is a summary of the instructions spelled out in the Offer Letter and can be used in conjunction with the annuity estimate and any other forms in the Offer Packet.

Important Items:

Dates	What Happens	What Should You Do?
August 25 - August 29, 2008	Postal Service announces 2008 VERA for eligible Field EAS, Field PCES, Postmaster and Area Office EAS & PCES employees.	Don't panic! If you are VER-eligible, you will receive all assistance needed. Make sure your address of record is accurate.
November 21, 2008	Annuity Estimates are mailed out to all VER eligible employees.	Study the estimate carefully and start considering your retirement options.
November 28, 2008	VER Offer Packet mailed out to all VER eligible employees.	Read through the information provided and in conjunction with the annuity estimate, make a decision whether voluntary early retirement is the best option for you.
December 3, 2008 – January 16, 2009	VER eligible employees must decide whether to apply for retirement during this period.	Complete all required forms and send to the HRSSC per instructions provided.
December 3, 2008	HRSSC begins sending out Retirement Forms to all early retirement applicants.	Review and complete personal information on the forms for retirement which will be discussed during your counseling session with HRSSC.
January 16, 2009 – 8:30 p.m. (Eastern time)	Required documents must be received at the HRSSC to take advantage of VER offer.	DON'T MISS THIS DEADLINE!
January 16, 2009– 8:30 p.m. (Eastern time)	Sent in your retirement application and changed your mind? SUBMIT REQUEST TO WITHDRAW BEFORE THIS TIME.	If you REALLY want to withdraw your application, pay close attention to this deadline!
March 3 – March 27, 2009	HRSSC begins notification to employees on status of VER applications	Take necessary action and start planning, based on application result.
March 31, 2009	Effective retirement date for approved Field EAS, Field PCES, Postmaster and Area Office EAS & PCES VER-eligible employees.	If you applied for retirement and your application was approved, have a wonderful retirement!