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GPO ACHIEVES MAJOR SPACE CONSOLIDATION WITH WAREHOUSE MOVE

The Government Printing Office (GPO) is undertaking a major consolidation of its leased warehouse space with the relocation of its Springbelt, VA, paper storage operations to its Laurel, MD, publications storage warehouse. The move will end GPO's need for 180,000 square feet of warehouse space in Springbelt, saving approximately \$5.3 million over the next 5 years, while providing for more efficient use of the Laurel warehouse space. Removal of materials from Springbelt to Laurel is scheduled to begin July 10, 2000, with the relocation completed by September 30, the termination date for the current lease.

The move shrinks GPO's paper warehouses from 3 sites to 2, leaving Laurel and GPO's Building 4 paper warehouse, located adjacent to its Washington DC central office complex. The Building 4 warehouse also houses GPO's passport and postal card printing operations.

Public Printer Michael F. DiMario remarked, "The relocation of our Springbelt warehouse is consistent with other consolidation moves we have made in recent years to provide Congress, Federal agencies, and the public with more efficient GPO services."

Since 1990, GPO has relocated Superintendent of Documents and other operations from leased space to its central office complex, relocated printing operations from Washington DC Navy Yard to the central office, and closed 4 of 5 regional printing plants located around the country.

While GPO continues to purchase a significant amount of paper annually for its in-plant printing operation and for sale to Federal agencies in the Washington DC area, the rising use of electronic information products has reduced GPO's paper purchases. As a result, GPO has less need for paper storage space than it did more than 20 years ago, when the Springbelt warehouse opened. Recently, GPO's space needs at Springbelt had declined to about 80,000 square feet, less than half the available space.

In FY 1994, GPO used or sold 90.9 million pounds of paper, maintained an average paper inventory of 16.7 million pounds, and moved an average of 6 truckloads of paper a day from the Springbelt warehouse to its central office plant. In FY 1999, GPO purchased approximately 54.8 million pounds of paper, maintained an average paper inventory of about 11.8 million pounds, and moved an average of 3 truckloads of paper a day to its central office plant. During the same 5-year period, the number of publication titles available on **GPO Access**, GPO's popular Internet information service (at www.access.gpo.gov), grew from none to more than 180,000 today, with more than 21 million documents now retrieved by the public each month.

The consolidation of warehouse space in Laurel presents an efficient alternative. GPO currently leases 382,000 square feet of space there for publications storage, order fulfillment, and related sales activities of its Superintendent of Documents. There were approximately 69,000 square feet of available space, which has been expanded through reorganization of existing functions to accommodate the relocated paper storage operation. The reduced publications storage space will help reduce the costs of the Superintendent of Documents' sales program, which operates entirely from revenues earned from sales and receives no appropriated funds.

The distance from the Laurel warehouse to GPO's Washington DC plant is 18 miles; it is 15 miles from Springbelt to the plant. While the Laurel warehouse does not have a rail siding for bulk deliveries as Springbelt did, there is a rail siding into GPO's Building 4 paper warehouse.

GPO reached agreements with the representatives of the Springbelt employees, Local 713 of the Graphic Communications International Union and Local 2876 of the American Federation of Government Employees, that will avoid any adverse impact on the employees resulting from their worksite relocation. The relocation was approved by GPO's congressional oversight committee, the Joint Committee on Printing.

(Self-Mailer)



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