

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Complaint on First-Class Mail Standards

Docket No. C2001-3

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING ON SCHEDULING MATTERS

(Issued October 14, 2003)

There has been an extended discovery period in this case to accommodate several considerations, such as the number and scope of interrogatories that have been filed, and assertions of burden raised by the Postal Service. Most recently, I established two alternative deadlines in connection with DFC/USPS-7, which seeks copies of correspondence the Service received concerning First-Class Mail service standards in fiscal years 2001-2002. See P.O. Ruling No. C2001-3/36, August 27, 2003. The Service was to make available responsive material within 14 days of the issuance of the referenced ruling (September 9, 2003) if it chose to redact correspondents' names and addresses. It was to meet an alternative deadline (40 days following issuance of the ruling) if it chose to segregate the correspondence by issue.

Both deadlines have now passed, with no responsive filings or requests for extension from the Postal Service. It appears that allowing additional time for discovery will not be productive. Therefore, I shall proceed with setting a date for the submission of Mr. Carlson's testimony and for discovery thereon. Consistent with earlier rulings, the complainant shall file testimony supporting his direct case by November 14, 2003. Discovery will be allowed, ending on December 12, 2003. A hearing to receive testimony in support of the complaint is scheduled for January 12, 2004.

RULING

1. Complainant Carlson shall file testimony supporting his direct case by November 14, 2003.
2. Discovery on complainant Carlson's testimony ends December 12, 2003.
3. A hearing to receive testimony in support of the complaint is scheduled for January 12, 2004.

Ruth Y. Goldway
Presiding Officer