

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

RATE AND SERVICE CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT  
FUNCTIONALLY EQUIVALENT NEGOTIATED  
SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH DISCOVER  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Docket No. MC2004-4

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to Presiding Officer's Information Request (POIR) No. 2. POIR 2 was issued on August 12, 2004, and requested responses by August 23, 2004. This response is accompanied by a Motion for Late Acceptance, as it is being filed one day late. The information request is stated verbatim, and then followed by the response. The witness attesting to the response is identified in the header thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

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Brian M. Reimer

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August 24, 2004

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ALI AYUB  
TO PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST No. 2

**POIR 2.** Please refer to the response to POIR 1, Question 4. The following citation is from the DM News, August 5, 2004, article "PARS on Track for Rollout This Month".

PARS is being deployed in two phases. Phase one begins this month and will be completed by November, at which point PARS will be deployed at 80 computerized forwarding system sites, 49 processing and distribution centers and 15 remote encoding centers. The equipment is already in place at the postal service's National Customer Support Center in Memphis, TN. The second phase is to begin early next year.

The article also credits a Postal Service official with an estimate that the system, when fully deployed, will save the Postal Service \$1 million a day. Please revise the response to POIR 1, Question 4, as necessary and include an estimate of the effects of the deployment of PARS on cost inputs to USPS-T-1 Appendix A, including but not limited to Computerized Forwarding System (CFS) Processing and Mailstream Processing costs taken from MC2002-2 USPS-LR-1.

**RESPONSE:**

Please see the Response of United States Postal Service to Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 1 (Errata) (POIR1 Q4), filed August 24, 2004.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

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Brian M. Reimer

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August 24, 2004