

ORDER NO. 31

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

Before Commissioners:

Dan G. Blair, Chairman;
Dawn A. Tisdale, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton; Ruth Y. Goldway; and
Tony L. Hammond

Premium Forwarding Service

Docket No. MC2007-3

ORDER ON CERTAIN SCHEDULING MATTERS

(Issued August 31, 2007)

At the August 28, 2007 prehearing conference, counsel for both the Postal Service and the Office of the Consumer Advocate indicated that September 18, 2007 would be an acceptable deadline for the close of discovery directed to the Postal Service. That date appears to be reasonable, given that the Service filed its direct case on July 31, 2007, and it is therefore established as the discovery deadline. Postal Service counsel, who is serving as settlement coordinator, also stated that settlement discussions have been underway. The Commission appreciates counsel's efforts to explore settlement, and directs counsel to file a status report on October 5, 2007, if a settlement agreement has not been filed by then. It also directs participants to state, by

October 5, whether they seek a hearing in this case and to identify the reasons why they believe a hearing is necessary.¹

It is ordered:

1. Discovery directed to the Postal Service concludes September 18, 2007.
2. Postal Service counsel is directed, in his capacity as settlement coordinator, to file a status report no later than October 5, 2007, assuming a settlement agreement has not been submitted by that time.
3. Participants seeking a hearing in this case are directed to file a statement to that effect no later than October 5, 2007, along with supporting reasons.

By the Commission.

Steven W. Williams
Secretary

¹ The Commission notes that the National Newspaper Association has stated, in its Notice of Intervention, that it does not seek a hearing. Notice of Intervention of the National Newspaper Association, August 16, 2007, at 1.