

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Complaint on Post E.C.S.

Docket No C99-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING GRANTING
MOTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE RESPONSIVE INFORMATION
AND ADOPTING AN EXPEDITED DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES
TO POSTAL SERVICE REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

(August 23, 1999)

On August 20, the Postal Service filed a motion¹ for an extension of time in which to file materials responsive to seven enumerated United Parcel Service interrogatories, as directed in Presiding Officer's Ruling No. C99-1/9 and during the prehearing conference held on August 10. In its motion, the Service explains that compliance with my direction to compile a privilege log (or "Vaughn index") with an entry for each responsive document is expected to require an additional 10 days from the established deadline of August 20, owing to the large volume of material that must be reviewed. The Service further states that compliance is expected to be particularly difficult with respect to e-mail messages responsive to Interrogatory UPS/USPS-5(d), because "there are thousands of e-mails, spread within the electronic files of numerous individuals, that would need to be examined...." Postal Service Motion at 3. Based on this anticipated difficulty, the Service asks that I reconsider the instruction to prepare an entry for each responsive document, rather than each category of document, or otherwise that I clarify how the Service should proceed with this task.

In view of the Postal Service's explanation of the difficulties it has encountered in attempting to comply, I will grant Complainant's motion for an extension to August 30, 1999. Additionally, in order to act expeditiously upon the Service's request for separate treatment of some materials responsive to Interrogatory UPS/USPS-5(d), I shall direct Complainant and other interested parties to respond to that request by the close of business on Wednesday, August 25, 1999.

RULING

1. The Motion of the United States Postal Service for Extension of Time to File Information Regarding UPS Interrogatories 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, filed August 20, 1999, is granted.

2. Responses to the Motion of the United States Postal Service for Clarification or Reconsideration Regarding Subpart (D) of Interrogatory UPS/USPS-5 shall be due August 25, 1999.

Dana B. Covington, Sr.
Presiding Officer

¹ Motion of the United States Postal Service for Extension of Time to File Information Regarding UPS Interrogatories 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, and for Clarification or Reconsideration Regarding Subpart 5(D), August 20, 1999.