

ORIGINAL

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

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SPECIAL SERVICES REFORM, 1996

Docket No. MC96-3

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS ELLARD TO INTERROGATORIES OF
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
(OCA/USPS-T6-17-20)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides responses of witness Ellard to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T6-17-20, filed on July 19, 1996.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Kenneth N. Hollies

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-3083; Fax -5402
August 2, 1996

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
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OCA/USPS-T6-17. Please refer to the file POBOX.DAT of SSR-111. The responses to questions 3a, 4, and 5a of the survey questionnaire contain an "OTHER (SPECIFY)" option. It is not clear what some of the coded responses refer to.

- a. File POBOX.DAT contains values of 1, 10, 11, 12, 2, 3, 4, 45, 49, 5, 7, 8, and 9 for responses to question 3a. Please explain what each of these codes refers to.
- b. File POBOX.DAT contains values of 1, 10, 12, 2, 3, 4, 49, 5, 7, 8, and 9 for responses to question 4. Please explain what each of these codes refers to.
- c. File POBOX.DAT contains values of 1, 10, 11, 12, 2, and 3 for responses to question 5a. Please explain what each of these codes refers to.

RESPONSE to OCA/USPS-T6-17.

- a-c. The codes reflect the coding scheme used for questions 3a, 4 and 5a.

Codes printed on the questionnaire are:

- 1 RELY ON REGULAR CARRIER DELIVERY
- 2 RENT FROM MAIL RECEIVING FIRM
- 3 APPLY FOR SMALLER BOX FROM USPS
- 4 CONTINUE RENTING AT THE NEW PRICE
- 5 OTHER SPECIFY
- 6 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

Given the presence of "other" answers we developed additional codes, resulting in this final list:

- 1 RELY ON REGULAR CARRIER DELIVERY
- 2 RENT FROM MAIL RECEIVING FIRM
- 3 APPLY FOR SMALLER BOX FROM USPS
- 4 CONTINUE RENTING AT THE NEW PRICE
- 5 OTHER SPECIFY
- 6 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED
- 7 WILL CHECK OUT ALL OPTIONS BEFORE MAKING DECISION
- 8 NO HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE
- 9 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS/OTHERS WILL MAKE DECISION
- 10 WILL USE ELECTRONIC MAIL
- 11 NOT USED SEPARATELY, COMBINED WITH 45
- 12 NOT USED SEPARATELY, COMBINED WITH 45
- 45 MISCELLANEOUS OTHER -- INCLUDES CODES 11, 12
- 49 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

The output from these codes appears in the tabulations included in Library Reference SSR-111 at 65-67 and 70-71.

OCA/USPS-T6-18. Please refer to the Statement of Work at pages 2-3 and the questionnaire at pages 24-30 of SSR-111. These pages indicate that the post office box rate research included a study of potential box renters currently on waiting lists for boxes. Please provide a data file analogous to POBOX DAT of SSR-111 for the waiting list respondents.

RESPONSE to OCA/USPS-T6-18.

A diskette with the requested data file will be provided in Library Reference SSR-132, Post Office Box Price Sensitivity Study Materials Provided in Response to OCA/USPS-T6-18 and 19.

As noted in my Response to OCA/USPS-T6-11, these data have not been through final processing. They have not been weighted.

Therefore, while the file is analogous to POBOX.DAT it is not directly comparable.

As mentioned in my Response to OCA/USPS-T6-11, I do not believe that these data provide a suitable basis for inference.

OCA/USPS-T6-19. Please provide pages 33 to 49 of SSR-111 in electronic format. This is the sample disposition tabulations for the post office box study.

RESPONSE to OCA/USPS-T6-19.

The data are being provided in an Excel file on a diskette.

To enhance the utility of these data I have provided disaggregated box size data for some categories. All the original data remain.

The diskette and a corresponding printout will be included in Library Reference SSR-132.

OCA/USPS-T6-20. Can the waiting list data set be used in conjunction with the POBOX.DAT file to produce any estimates of correlation between the percentage of nonresident box holders and the existence (or length) of waiting lists? Please explain. If such correlation estimates can be produced, how reliable are they?

RESPONSE to OCA/USPS-T6-20

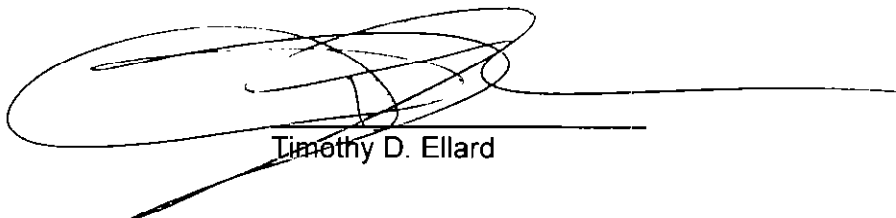
I noted the lack of precision in the residency question in my response to OCA/USPS-T6-9c.

In my Responses to OCA/USPS-T6-11c and 18 I said that data on waiting lists do not provide a suitable basis for inference. Since I'm not comfortable with either information source, I cannot support any analysis of the relationship between them.

I am making the data available for whatever uses participants may have in mind.

DECLARATION

I, Timothy D. Ellard, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.


A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Timothy D. Ellard

Dated: August 2, 1996

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.



Kenneth N. Hollies

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