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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SPECIAL SERVICES REFORM, 1996

Docket No. MC96-3

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE NOTICE REGARDING WITNESS AVAILABILITY
(August 13, 1996)

The United States Postal Service canvassed its witnesses to determine their availability for hearings September 9-13, 1996. Only two witnesses report any limitations during that week.

Witness Ellard will be out of the country from September 10, 1996 until September 28. Accordingly, he is available only on September 9.

Witness Steidtman is available only on September 11 because of prior commitments on the other dates.

The level of activity in this case appears to warrant a shortened hearing schedule. While a week seems too long, any determination to schedule fewer than five hearing days should perhaps first be informed by participant statements regarding the scope of expected cross-examination. Should a shorter schedule prove feasible, the Postal Service requests that in accordance with the schedule limitations specified above,

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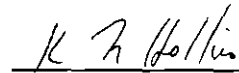
hearings commence as scheduled on September 9 and continue until complete, rather than beginning on a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Kenneth N. Hollies

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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August 9, 1996