

ORIGINAL

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

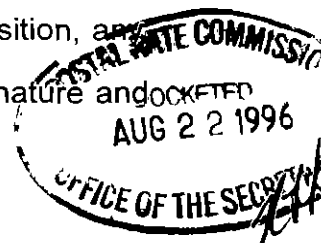
SPECIAL SERVICES REFORM, 1996

Docket No. MC96-3

OBJECTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION
(APWU/USPS-T8-40 & 44(C))

The Postal Service hereby objects to interrogatories APWU/USPS-T8-40 and 44(c), filed August 13, 1996. Interrogatory 40 seeks information concerning policy decisions regarding the treatment of inbound international mail. The subject matter of the interrogatory is plainly beyond the scope of this proceeding, which is limited to domestic mail classifications and fees. See 39 U.S.C. §§ 407, 3621 *et seq.* The interrogatory is therefore objectionable on grounds of relevance, as it seeks information that is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The interrogatory is also objectionable on grounds that it seeks a legal conclusion and information that is predecisional in nature and therefore protected from disclosure by the deliberative process privilege.

APWU/USPS-T8-44(c) seeks an analysis of the cost and revenue impact of the elimination of international *expres* mail. Again, the subject matter of this interrogatory is beyond the scope of this proceeding, which is limited to domestic mail classifications and fees. See 39 U.S.C. §§ 407, 3621 *et seq.* The interrogatory is thus objectionable on grounds of relevance, as it seeks information that is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The question is also misleading, as it assumes a fact that is not in evidence, *i.e.*, that international *expres* mail will be eliminated. Even assuming the truth of that proposition, any information responsive to the interrogatory would be predecisional in nature and



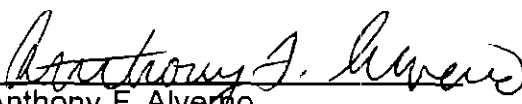
therefore protected from disclosure by the deliberative process privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

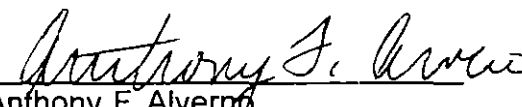
By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking


Anthony F. Alverno

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.


Anthony F. Alverno

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August 22, 1996