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PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. MC2000-2/1

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Mailing Online Experiment

Docket No. MC2000-2

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
SCHEDULE AND RESPONSE TO DISCOVERY

(December 14, 1999)

The Postal Service stated in the Pre-hearing Conference held December 13, 1999, that a meeting was being planned for December 20, 1999, that would address the expected scope of the participants' direct cases and the overall procedural schedule. The Postal Service shall provide a report to the Presiding Officer on December 20, 1999 describing information exchanged at that meeting, and outlining any resulting proposals for scheduling this proceeding. The Presiding Officer will take under advisement any proposals and promptly issue a ruling on the procedural schedule.

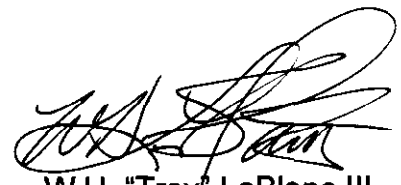
The issue of response time to discovery requests was also discussed at the Pre-hearing Conference. Order No. 1272 required the Postal Service to respond to discovery requests submitted prior to December 13, 1999, within 10 days. Because of the expedited schedule, the Presiding Office proposed to the Postal Service a seven day response period for replying to discover requests. The Postal Service objected to this proposal and submitted a counterproposal for an eight business day response

period. Pitney Bowes commented that an eight business day response period could possibly exceed the customary 10 day response period rule. OCA commented that either the 10 day or the eight business day time periods would be acceptable and that a shorter seven day period would not be required given an overall 150 day procedural schedule.

Considering the position of participants and the requirement to expedite the proceeding to submit a decision within the 150 day schedule requirement, I shall adopt a seven business day rule for the response period to all requests for discovery.

RULING

1. The Postal Service shall provide a report to the Presiding Officer on December 20, 1999, stating the results of the participants meeting concerning scheduling of this proceeding.
2. Responses to discovery requests shall be served within seven business days of the request for discovery.



W.H. "Trey" LeBlanc III
Presiding Officer