

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAILING ONLINE EXPERIMENT

Docket No. MC2000-2

Notice of United States Postal Service  
Regarding Settlement Conference  
(December 20, 1999)

The United States Postal Service hosted a settlement conference on December 20, 1999. Various issues were discussed, but the only real agreement regarding settlement was that it appears infeasible at this point in time. Notwithstanding, exploration of means to expedite the proceeding by minimizing procedural necessities continues.

OCA has identified several means for avoiding the necessity for it to file a direct case. The merits of those are under consideration by the Postal Service; the most promising of those appears to be further definition of how Internet services "functionally equivalent" to Mailing Online might be extended access to the automation basic rates on the same basis as proposed for Mailing Online. However, other proposals by OCA require further study.

The participants generally agreed that the designation procedure discussed at the Prehearing Conference constitutes an efficient means for building the evidentiary record in this proceeding. In addition to designation of testimony from that proceeding and the original proponents' opportunity to update the original material, the potential necessity for participants to cross-examine such updated material was also recognized. This could be accommodated by permitting "follow-up" interrogatories to be propounded

much as "follow-up" is ordinarily expected to interrogatory responses filed after the expiration of the regular discovery period.

Attendees at the settlement conference also were unable to agree to forego the opportunity to file direct cases, either in rebuttal to the Postal Service or with new proposals. Naturally, this also means the Postal Service must itself preserve the right to rebut any such cases.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorney:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

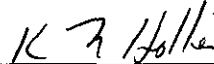


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Kenneth N. Hollies

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in Docket No. MC98-1 in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.



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Kenneth N. Hollies

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December 20, 1999