

ORDER NO. 1276

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before Commissioners:

Edward J. Gleiman, Chairman;
George A. Omas, Vice Chairman;
Dana B. Covington, Sr.; Ruth Y. Goldway;
and W.H. "Trey" LeBlanc III

Complaint on Charges for the
Bulk Parcel Return Service

Docket No. C99-4

ORDER REVISING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued December 28, 1999)

On December 22, 1999, the Commission issued Order No. 1275, which admitted certain evidence from past Commission proceedings into the record of Docket No. C99-4, and provided that discovery on the direct evidence of the Continuity Shippers Association (CSA), consisting of the written testimony of witness Buc, may be conducted through January 5, 2000. By that date, parties were instructed to notify the Commission if additional time for discovery is needed, and if cross-examination of CSA witness Buc is desired.

Subsequent to the issuance of Order No. 1275, CSA filed a Motion for Order on Further Proceedings. Upon consultation with the Postal Service and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA), CSA proposes a further procedural schedule for Docket No. C99-4. It is suggested that all interrogatories on the direct testimony of CSA witness Buc be submitted by January 13, 2000, with the responses due by January 20. Parties would be required to indicate by January 24, 2000 whether they would like an

opportunity for oral cross-examination, or wish to submit rebuttal testimony, prior to the submission of final briefs.

Should oral cross-examination be desired, CSA proposes that a one-day hearing be scheduled during the period of January 26-28, 2000, with subsequent opportunity for the parties to submit rebuttal testimony. In the event that no hearing is requested and no rebuttal testimony is filed, CSA suggests that initial briefs by CSA and supporting parties be due by January 28, 2000, with responsive briefs due by February 14, 2000.

The Commission finds the procedures proposed in CSA's motion to be reasonable, and notes that the Postal Service and OCA apparently concur with the suggested timetable. Therefore, the Motion of the Continuity Shippers Association for Order on Further Proceedings shall be granted, and the deadline adopted in Order No. 1275 amended accordingly.

It is ordered:

1. All interrogatories addressing CSA witness Buc's direct testimony must be submitted by January 13, 2000.
2. Responses to interrogatories on CSA witness Buc's testimony are due by January 20, 2000.
3. Parties shall notify the Commission by January 24, 2000 as to whether they wish to conduct oral cross-examination of CSA witness Buc, or submit rebuttal testimony.
4. If cross-examination of CSA witness Buc is requested, a hearing will be conducted at 9:30 A.M. on January 28, 2000.

5. Should participants choose to forego cross-examination and submission of rebuttal testimony, initial briefs will be due by January 28, 2000. Responsive briefs will be due by February 14, 2000.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)



Margaret P. Crenshaw
Secretary

* Commissioner Goldway not voting