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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R2000-1/2

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

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2000-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
GRANTING THE POSTAL SERVICE'S UNCONTESTED MOTION

(February 14, 2000)


On February 10, 2000, the Postal Service filed an uncontested motion requesting suspension of otherwise applicable discovery obligations concerning certain interrogatories filed by United Parcel Service (UPS), UPS/USPS-T23-1-4, pending the parties' efforts to resolve the discovery dispute informally.

As a general matter, UPS/USPS-T23-1-4 seek information concerning base year advertising costs. In its motion, the Postal Service briefly highlights its concerns about the interrogatories. In lieu of filing a formal objection, the Postal Service approached UPS in an effort to resolve informally issues involving the discovery request. The Postal Service represents that UPS agrees to the requested relief. Further, the Postal Service indicates that the parties' agreement to attempt informal resolution of their differences is without prejudice to their rights under the Commission's rules.

The Postal Service's motion is granted. The Postal Service and UPS are commended for attempting to resolve their differences informally, without, initially, resorting to formal motions' practice. As a reminder to all participants, the Commission encourages and its rules contemplate use of informal means to clarify issues and otherwise resolve discovery disputes. See Rule 25 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 39 C.F.R. § 3001.25.

RULING

The Postal Service's request for suspension of otherwise applicable discovery obligations regarding UPS/USPS-T23-1-4 pending informal efforts by the parties to resolve their differences is granted.


Edward J. Gleiman
Chairman