

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2000 )

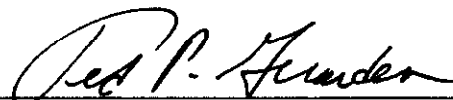
Docket No. R2000-1

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
INTERROGATORIES TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
(OCA/USPS-68-81)  
March 6, 2000

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Pursuant to sections 26 and 27 of the Rules of Practice of the Postal Rate Commission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate hereby submits interrogatories and requests for production of documents. Instructions included with OCA interrogatories OCA/USPS-1-14 dated January 24, 2000, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Respectfully submitted,



TED P. GERARDEN

Director

Office of the Consumer Advocate

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OCA/USPS-68. Refer to OCA/USPS-20 and the response thereto filed on February 10, 2000, where the Postal Service stated that "some local post offices deliver rate increase notices to businesses and households right before implementation of new rates." Estimate the number of businesses and/or households which were so notified before the January 1999 rate increase. Does the Postal Service provide guidelines to local post offices on how, when, and whether to provide such notices? How is the cost of such notices recorded? Provide an estimate of the cost of all such notices provided before the January 1999 rate increase.

OCA/USPS-69. Refer to OCA/USPS-23 through OCA/USPS-27 and OCA/USPS-33 and the response thereto filed on February 10, 2000. Provide the amount of, or an estimate of the amount of, the total underpayment of postage and the total overpayment of postage. Identify the period to which the amounts or estimates pertain (*e.g.*, PFY99). Provide any available breakdown or estimate of breakdown of the underpayment and/or overpayments amounts. Provide related documents, including reports, estimates, or studies relating to incorrect postage payments.

OCA/USPS-70. Refer to OCA/USPS-48 and the response thereto filed on February 14, 2000. Provide the Postal Service's estimate of postage in the hands of the public. Provide all documents related to the estimate.

OCA/USPS-71. Refer to OCA/USPS-50 and the response thereto filed on February 10, 2000, where the Postal Service stated that "window time or collection of postage

due costs associated only with the change in First-Class Mail single piece rates cannot be isolated.” Provide total incremental costs associated with the changeover to new rates in January 1999 for window time, overtime, and collection of postage due. Provide related documents.

OCA/USPS-72. Refer to OCA/USPS-51 and the responses thereto filed on February 16, 2000. Has the Postal Service developed, or is the Postal Service developing, a “timeline for future rate implementations” as recommended by the March 1999 Retail Assessment Meeting? If so, provide a copy of the timeline. Is the Postal Service planning a “Nationally developed postcard sent to all residential addresses” as recommended by the March 1999 Retail Assessment Meeting? If so, provide a summary of the plans for such a mailing, including estimated costs.

OCA/USPS-73. Refer to OCA/USPS-10 and OCA/USPS-59 and the responses thereto filed on February 7 and 24, 2000. Provide (or estimate) the “TY volume variable unit cost of Standard A Mail Saturation ECR.”

OCA/USPS-74. Provide or refer to documents (including studies and analyses) showing the composition of, or breakdown of, window clerk activities, including the number of transactions in each category.

OCA/USPS-75. Provide (or estimate) the number of additional window, stamps-by-mail, and online stamp sale transactions resulting from the postage rate increase in

January 1999. Provide a comparison of the number of such transactions in a reporting period that includes January 1999 with a comparable period including January 1998.

OCA/USPS-76. Provide (or estimate) the cost to the Postal Service of each of the following stamp transactions:

- (a) A retail facility window purchase (as part of the answer to this subpart, please update USPS-RT-17C from Docket No. R97-1 with data from Docket No. R2000-1);
- (b) A stamps-by-mail purchase (such as one in response to the USPS mailing attached to OCA/USPS-60); and
- (c) An online stamp order.

OCA/USPS-77. Provide (or estimate) the number of annual retail window stamp transactions for the following quantities of stamps purchased in one transaction:

- (a) Fewer than 10;
- (b) 10 to 19;
- (c) 20 to 49;
- (d) 50 to 99; and
- (e) 100 or more.

If the Postal Service does not have the information broken out by these quantities, provide available information on the number of window transactions by quantity of stamps per transaction. Include in your response the total number of annual retail window stamp transactions and the average quantity of stamps per transaction.

OCA/USPS-78. For vending machine stamp sales, what quantities of stamps are available for purchase (i.e., how many stamps to a vending booklet)? Provide (or estimate) the number of each booklet quantity sold annually.

OCA/USPS-79. On average, how frequently do household consumers purchase stamps in retail window transactions?

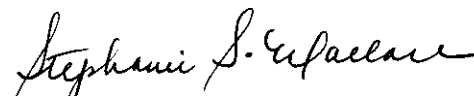
OCA/USPS-80. Provide (or estimate) the number of stamp transactions (or, if the number of transactions is not available, the number of stamps sold and average quantity sold) annually through

- (a) stamp-by-mail orders;
- (b) online orders;
- (c) vending machines; and
- (d) consignment programs.

OCA/USPS-81. Provide the Postal Service's FY2000 budget plan in full detail (i.e., by Accounting Period and mail class and subclass).

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the rules of practice.

  
Stephanie S. Wallace

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001  
March 6, 2000