

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2000

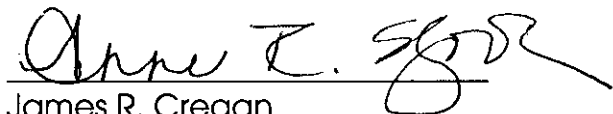
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) Docket No. R2000-1
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FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES OF
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS XIE
(MPA/USPS-T1-1-16)

(MARCH 21, 2000)

Pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice, Magazine Publishers of America, Inc. hereby submits the attached first set of interrogatories (MPA/USPS-T1-1-16) to USPS Witness Xie.

Respectfully submitted,



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**FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES OF
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
TO USPS WITNESS XIE**

MPA/USPS-T1-1. Please confirm that the TRACS highway sample frame excludes contracts for which the destination is a railroad yard. If not confirmed, please describe how such movements are sampled in TRACS.

MPA/USPS-T1-2. Please confirm that the TRACS highway sample frame does not exclude contracts for which the origin is a railroad yard. If confirmed, please identify (in machine-readable form) TRACS highway observations for which the origin is a railroad yard. If not confirmed, please describe the process through which such movements are excluded.

MPA/USPS-T1-3. Please refer to Exhibit 2 on page 3 of USPS LR-H-78 from Docket No. R97-1. Please confirm that this provides the allocations of TRACS highway samples by contract type utilized in BY98. If not confirmed, please provide the base year allocations. In either case, please provide a concise description of the process through which the allocations are developed, and their use in the expansion process for TRACS observations.

MPA/USPS-T1-4. At the time the TRACS sample is drawn, please describe the information that is available regarding the frequency and schedule for contracts that operate on a per-trip, as-needed basis. Please describe the use of such information in the sampling process.

MPA/USPS-T1-5. For BY98, please provide the proportion of "zero-volume tests" by highway contract type found during the TRACS sampling process. Of these, please indicate the proportion that occur at the same point as the trip origin (i.e., empty returns).

MPA/UPSP-T1-6. Please confirm that TRACS does not sample movements made using "Roadrillers" on Amtrak. If you do not confirm, please provide documentation of the sampling process, including sample selection, field data collection and the identification of FY98 TRACS records for Amtrak Roadrailer movements.

MPA/USPS-T1-7. Please provide documentation of the instructions provided to field data technicians in sampling mail moving in 3910A Amtrak containers.

MPA/USPS-T1-8. Please provide copies of the Amtrak sample frames for FY96 and FY97.

MPA/USPS-T1-9. Please provide the best available estimate of the frequency with which “set-aside” items (other than pallets) selected in TRACS Amtrak tests and labeled with green tags are not sampled at the “downstream” postal facility. In machine-readable form, please identify Amtrak tests for which set-aside items (other than pallets) were not sampled.

MPA/USPS-T1-10. Please state the date on which the selection of TRACS highway samples converted to the new system of accounts. Please identify what procedural changes in TRACS were necessitated by changes in operations under the new system of accounts.

MPA/USPS-T1-11. Instructions provided to TRACS field data technicians state that “(p)lant load transportation . . . (is) not eligible for selection.” (Docket R94-1, USPS-LR-G-112, Section 252.) Please state what instructions are provided for cases where the contract selected from the frame for a TRACS highway test is a plant load movement.

MPA/USPS-T1-12. Please state why TRACS samples only freight rail movements that originate at BMC’s. Please state what fraction of freight rail movements in BY98 originated at points other than BMC’s.

MPA/USPS-T1-13. Please state whether the current TRACS Instruction Manual differs from the document supplied as USPS LR-G-112 in Docket No. R94-1. If so, please provide a copy of the current version.

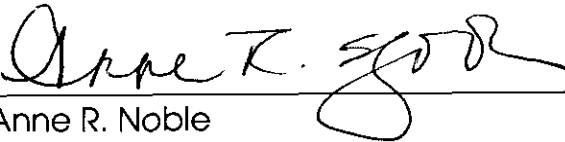
MPA/USPS-T1-14. Please confirm that TRACS does not sample exceptional, emergency or Christmas accounts in purchased highway transportation. If confirmed, please indicate why such accounts are not sampled. If not confirmed, please explain.

MPA/USPS-T1-15. Please refer to Footnote 11 on page 38 of USPS-LR-I-52. Please describe the nature and magnitude of the revision, and the factors that necessitated it.

MPA/USPS-T1-16. Please provide the addresses of the facilities referred to in the Amtrak sampling frame as “DVD Facility” and “Phil-AMC”.

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 the Commission's Rules of Practice.



Anne R. Noble

Washington DC
March 21, 2000