

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

RECEIVED
MAR 24 4 08 PM '00
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2000

Docket No. R2000-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS DAVIS
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN
REDIRECTED FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE
(DBP/USPS-41)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness Davis to the following interrogatory of David B. Popkin: DBP/USPS-41, filed on March 10, 2000, and redirected from the Postal Service.

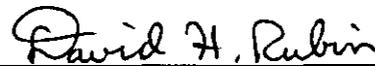
The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



David H. Rubin

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-2986; Fax -6187
March 24, 2000

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS DAVIS
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN,
REDIRECTED FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE**

DBP/USPS-41 [a] Confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that the delivery records for accountable mail are filed manually at the delivery unit or at some locally centralized location. [b] Confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that these records must be checked in order to process any requests for duplicate return receipts or return receipts requested after mailing of the original article or for processing indemnity claims. [c] To what service are the costs of manually filing this delivery receipt allocated? Are they allocated to the basic service, such as Certified Mail, or are they charged to both Certified Mail and Return Receipt service? How are these charges allocated? [d] Are there plans to implement some form of electronic signature capture to reduce or eliminate the necessity of manually filing these records? If so, please explain and indicate the time frame for instituting it and the percentage of offices that will utilize it? [e] If the price for Return Receipt after mailing is being cut in half because of the reduced costs in obtaining this data, to what extent is the cost of Certified Mail, Insured Mail, Registered Mail, Return Receipt, etc. being reduced to cover this same reduction in costs? If not, why not?

RESPONSE:

- a. Confirmed.
- b. Confirmed.
- c. It is my understanding that the costs of manually filing this delivery receipt, PS Form 3849, are institutional costs. The cost study for return receipt service does not allocate the costs of manually filing PS Form 3849 to return receipt service.
- d. Yes, there are plans to implement electronic signature capture to reduce or eliminate the necessity of manually filing these records. Please refer to USPS-T-30, p. 13, for an explanation of electronic signature capture. Implementation is planned for spring 2000. Under current plans, virtually all delivery offices will utilize the electronic signature capture process.

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS DAVIS
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN,
REDIRECTED FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE**

DBP/USPS-41, Page 2 of 2

- e. Please refer to USPS-LR-I-108, pp. 56-61, for the estimated test year cost differentials arising from the planned electronic signature capture process.

The corresponding electronic files are named:

"elec sign capt – before rates.xls"

"elec sign capt – after rates.xls"

"elec sign capt – unit cost deltas.xls".

DECLARATION

I, Scott J. Davis, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Scott J Davis

Dated: March 24, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

David H. Rubin

David H. Rubin

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
March 24, 2000