

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2000

Docket No. R2000-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-25(g.-i))

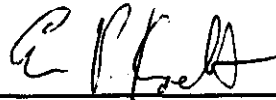
The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatory of David B. Popkin: DBP/USPS-25(g.-i.), as compelled by Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2000-1/56, issued on May 2, 2000. The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
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May 8, 2000

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DBP/USPS- 25. Regarding all of the recent publicity about the incorrect street number on Census Bureau mailings, [a] Advise the total additional cost, if any, to the Postal Service to process this mail. [b] Does the address on the mail contain a ZIP Code and if so, is it a 5-digit or 9-digit code? [c] Does the ZIP Code match the correct address or the address as printed on the mail [namely, with the extra digit in front of the true number]? [d] Is the mail barcoded? [e] If so, what is the length of the barcode? [f] Does the barcode match the correct address or the address as printed on the mail [namely, with the extra digit in front of the true number]? [g] If the letters are barcoded with the last two digits of the street number, does this create an erroneous barcode for single-digit street numbers? [h] With respect to any mail that contains a correct barcode, will it be processed to the barcoded address regardless of the printed address appearing on the mail? [i] Explain the algorithms that are utilized when incorrect addresses are being analyzed on automated equipment to arrive at a correct barcode for the mail. For example, would a letter addressed to Englewood NY 07631 be sent to New Jersey since two out of the three parts of the address indicate that or would it also check to see that the street address was also a valid Englewood NJ address?

Response:

(a) – (f) Objection filed and sustained.

(g) No. The encoding rules for single digit addresses is to put a "0" in front of the number for the required two digit add-on.

(h) The BCSs will sort based on the barcode regardless of the printed address on the mail. The Census Bureau mailing contained the correct city, state and street name. However, in instances where the city or state does not match the sortation bin based on the sort from the non-matching barcode, sweepers may catch the error. Otherwise, manual operations sort based on the address.

(i) The OCR does a city, state, and ZIP Code comparison. In your example with the correct ZIP Code and city and incorrect state, the OCR would code to the City and ZIP Code since they match, thereby "correcting" the incorrect state.

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.



Eric P. Koetting

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