

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2000-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 17

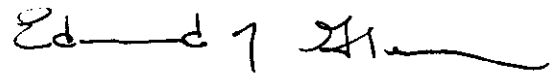
(Issued July 24, 2000)

The Postal Service is requested to provide the information described below to assist in developing a record for the consideration of its request for changes in rates and fees. In order to facilitate inclusion of the required material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service is to have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers and be prepared to explain to the extent necessary the basis for the answers at our hearings. The answers are to be provided on or before August 3, 2000.

1. Please provide Tables 1, 2, and 3 in the testimony of witness Pafford (USPS-T-4) updated for FY 1999.
2. Please provide Tables 1, 2, and 3 that are attached to the response to Interrogatory UPS/USPS-T4-6 updated for FY 1999.
3. Please provide Tables 1, 2, and 3 that are attached to the response to Interrogatory UPS/USPS-T5-2 updated for FY 1999.
4. Please provide all revenue adjustment factors employed to adjust BRPW estimates for Parcel Post in FY 1999. Also specify the period for which each adjustment factor was applied.
5. Please explain why a trial balance revenue adjustment is necessary for BRPW estimates.

6. Please provide DRPW-only volume, revenue, and weight estimates for the Parcel Post subclass in FY 1999 if the required data are available.
7. In FY 1999, the Postal Service retroactively adjusted reported FY 1998 Parcel Post volume and revenue by an increase of 50 million pieces and \$124 million (FY 1998 RPW, 11/5/98; FY 1999 RPW, 11/19/99). Please identify the mail categories, if any, that were adjusted to offset the increase in Parcel Post volume and revenue and show the magnitude of the adjustment for each of the mail categories.
8. For the adjusted RPW volume and revenue estimates for Parcel Post in FY 1998 and the reported estimates in FY 1999, please provide the volume and revenue portions that were generated by each of the RPW subsystems. In your analysis include BRPW, DRPW, OMAS and any other subsystem or adjustment. Further, for the BRPW volume and revenue estimates, please provide the volume and revenue portions that were generated by the PERMIT or automated offices, non-automated offices and any other source or adjustment.
9. Question 2(a) in POIR 15 asked the Postal Service to explain why the long-accepted DRPW sampling system underestimated Parcel Post volume by 50 million pieces, or 19 percent, in FY 1998 compared to the new BRPW/DRPW method. In its response, the Postal Service attributed the underestimation in the DRPW system to errors committed by the data collectors.
 - a) Please describe the frequency of data collectors' training and provide the materials that were used to train the data collectors in FY 1998.
 - b) Please specify what fraction of data collectors received training in FY 1998.
 - c) Please describe the data collection quality control procedures applied during FY 1998 and discuss if the procedures were different for previous years.

- d) Were all DRPW sample observations for FY 1998 made and recorded by onsite data technicians? If not, please specify all other means used to make and record observations, and provide estimates of the proportion of observations made by each such method.



Edward J. Gleiman
Presiding Officer