

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Complaint on Sunday
and Holiday Collections

Docket No. C2001-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
IN OPPOSITION TO THE POPKIN MOTION TO COMPEL REGARDING
DBP/USPS-1(b), 2, 3, 8, and 9
(June 28, 2001)

On June 21, 2001, David Popkin filed a motion to compel responses to the above items. The Postal Service hereby opposes that motion, except as applied to question 9, for which a response is filed today.

With respect to question 1, 2, and 3, Mr. Popkin continues to insist that the POM and the DMM are at the "very crux of the Complaint, in that the Postal Service has not been meeting its own regulations and the public has not been informed of the level of service that may be expected." In fact, however, in Order No. 1307, the Commission explicitly rejected the contention that focus on compliance with the POM is likely to be useful, and did not exercise its discretion to hear that portion of the complaint. Order No. 1307 at 15. There is simply nothing to be gained by pursuing the line of inquiry raised in questions 1, 2, and 3. It is not as if there are reams of documents out there signed by District Managers stating "I hereby authorize an exception to the POM and the DMM," which the Postal Service is seeking to conceal. As should be abundantly obvious by now, these matters are simply not addressed in those terms, no matter how much Mr. Popkin wishes to believe that they should be.

With respect to item 8, Mr. Popkin's question seeks confirmation of his assertion

that it is Postal Service policy to reduce retail window hours near holidays. There is no such "policy." In fact, the Postal Service is much more likely to extend window hours in the days and weeks before Christmas. What the Postal Service objects to, however, is the burden of trying to investigate if any isolated incidents nonetheless occurred over the 14 year period specified in the question. The scope of the complaint is limited to collection and mail processing. Obviously, there is some overlap, and the holiday memos provided in LR-1 discuss retail operations as well as the other two operations. The Postal Service should not be required to provide anything further on this tangential matter, omitted from the complaint, but now raised by Mr. Popkin. The Postal Service will respond to item 9, but does not waive its relevance objection by so doing.

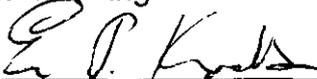
Therefore, Mr. Popkin's motion to compel responses to items 1(b), 2, 3, and 8 should be denied. The motion is moot with respect to item 9.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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June 28, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice, I have this day served the foregoing document upon:

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