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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R2001-1/6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2001-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
ESTABLISHING THE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(Issued November 5, 2001)

Presiding Officer's Ruling R2001-1/1, issued September 27, 2001, circulated a proposed procedural schedule for use in this case and established dates for participant comments. Seven written comments were submitted, all but one of which, endorsed the proposed schedule. The Postal Service suggested an alternative schedule that included shorter periods for discovery on the Postal Service direct case and shorter period for cross-examination.

At the October 25, 2001 prehearing conference three participants expressed reservations with the Postal Service's suggestion and argued for adoption of the schedule initially proposed in POR No. 1. Consideration of the schedule was overtaken to some extent by the presiding officer's direction that the Postal Service and other participants seriously consider whether recent events made it possible and beneficial to arrive at a negotiated settlement of this docket.

The First Report of the United States Postal Service as Settlement Coordinator was submitted on November 2, 2001. This Report indicates that there was sufficient interest in pursuing a settlement agreement so that discussions between participants will be continued. Under these circumstances it appears that the procedural schedule

initially proposed in POR No. 1 will best balance participants' need for time to fully understand the Postal Service request and the Postal Service's desire for an expedited decision.

RULING

The Procedural Schedule for this case is attached to this ruling.



George Omas
Vice Chairman

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES
DOCKET NO. R2001-1

September 24, 2001	Postal Service Request filed
October 25, 2001	Prehearing conference
November 13, 2001	Identify expected amount of oral cross-examination. Report on the availability of witnesses
November 26, 2001	Completion of discovery on a portion of the Postal Service's direct case
December 10, 2001	Completion of discovery on the remainder of the Postal Service's direct case
December 10, 2001	Trial brief of the Postal Service
December 13 – 20, 2001, and January 2 – 16, 2002	Hearings for cross-examination of the Postal Service's direct case (9:30 a.m. in the Commission hearing room)
January 30, 2002	Filing of the case-in-chief of each participant, including rebuttal to the Postal Service
February 27, 2002	Identify expected amount of oral cross-examination. Report on the availability of witnesses
February 27, 2002	Completion of discovery directed to intervenors and the OCA
March 11, 2002	Trial briefs of intervenors and the OCA
March 18 – April 5, 2002	Evidentiary hearings on the cases-in-chief of intervenors and the OCA (9:30 a.m. in the Commission hearing room)

March 27, 2002	Completion of discovery directed to the Service
April 15, 2002	Filing of evidence in rebuttal to the cases-in-chief of participants other than the Postal Service (no discovery permitted on this rebuttal evidence; only oral cross-examination)
April 24 – May 3, 2002	Hearings on rebuttal to participants' direct evidence 9:30 a.m. in the Commission hearing room)
May 13, 2002	Filing of initial briefs
May 23, 2002	Filing of reply briefs
June 4 – 5, 2002	Oral argument (if requested)