

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

EXPERIMENTAL SUSPENSION OF FEE FOR
MANUAL DELIVERY CONFIRMATION CATEGORY

Docket Nos. R2001-2
MC2001-2

NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF
WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST FOR A RECOMMENDED DECISION
AND MOTION TO CLOSE DOCKET
(November 5, 2001)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides notice that, as authorized by the Board of Governors, it is withdrawing its request for a recommended decision on an experimental suspension of the fee for manual Delivery Confirmation service, which was filed with the Postal Rate Commission on September 20, 2001. The Postal Service accordingly moves that the Commission close Docket No. R2001-2/MC2001-2, which it opened to consider that request.

The Postal Service is currently engaged in an evaluation of its window service and retail operations for the upcoming holiday mailing season. The experiment proposed by the Postal Service in this docket, even as scaled down during the course of the proceedings, would provide an invaluable opportunity to obtain insight into customer behavior and the degree to which a change in price might affect household and small business mailing patterns in a manner beneficial to postal operations. Nevertheless, as the full impact on postal operations caused by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the more recent use of the mails to disseminate lethal bacteria continues to emerge, the Postal Service has determined that the most prudent course at this challenging time would be to focus its window service and retail operations on the provision of existing domestic services, under their current terms and conditions, during the upcoming holiday peak mailing season. Accordingly, the Postal Service has

determined that presently evolving circumstances require that it approach the upcoming holiday mailing season in a manner uncomplicated by the additional responsibility of conducting the experiment it has asked the Commission to recommend.

Out of respect for these considerations, the Board of Governors has authorized the Postal Service to withdraw its request in this docket. The Postal Service hereby gives notice of such withdrawal and of its cessation from participation in this docket as of today.

Notwithstanding the circumstances that bring the instant proceeding to this point, the Postal Service considers that this docket serves as a model for the level of cooperation and expedition possible even when the material issues are vigorously contested. The Postal Service appreciates the extraordinary diligence and expedition with which the Commission has approached the request in this proceeding, as well as the cooperation of all of the parties in accommodating the accelerated schedule under which the case proceeded. The Postal Service hopes to benefit from similar consideration of requests for the establishment of experimental classifications and rates that it will file in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorney:

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November 5, 2001

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.

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November 5, 2001