

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, 2001

Docket No. R2001-1

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REPORT ON  
AVAILABILITY OF WITNESSES FOR HEARINGS

In accordance with Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2001-1/6, the United States Postal Service hereby provides its report on the availability of its witnesses for hearings. The procedural schedule schedules hearings for two periods, December 13-20, 2001 (with a discovery deadline of November 26), and January 2-16, 2002 (with a discovery deadline of December 10). The Postal Service requests that as many witnesses as possible be scheduled in the first set of hearings. The Presiding Officer stated that "the receipt of testimony giving rise to complex discovery or procedural disputes would be scheduled during the second session of hearings." Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2001-1/1, at 1. *The Postal Service believes that there are few if any witnesses in that category, and specifically disagrees with the OCA's identification of witnesses it wishes to place in the later set of hearings.* Answer of the Office of the Consumer Advocate to United States Postal Service Request for Expedition (October 24, 2001), at 6. The OCA might desire a longer discovery period on these witnesses, but the Postal Service does not find that these witnesses have been the subject of complex discovery or procedural disputes.

While the Postal Service believes that the early set of hearings is long enough to accommodate at least half of its witnesses, the Postal Service notes that those hearings

will be held at the same time as the preparation of responses to discovery filed during December.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, responses to discovery filed on December 10 would be due on Christmas Eve.<sup>2</sup> The Postal Service therefore asks the Presiding Officer to (1) request that discovery subject to the December 10 deadline be filed before that deadline, to the extent possible, and (2) establish November 26 as the deadline for discovery on the Postal Service's direct case that is not directed to a witness.<sup>3</sup>

The Postal Service reports that its witnesses will not be available for hearing on the following days.

Shaw (T-1)-Available all dates

Xie (T-2)- Available all dates

Pafford (T-3) – December 17-20

Hunter (T-4) – December 20, January 10-11

Harahush (T-5)-Available all dates

Tayman (T-6)- December 13-20, January 2-5

Tolley (T-7)-January 2-4, 7-8, 10, 15

Thress (T-8)- Available all dates

Musgrave (T-9)- Available all dates

Bernstein (T-10)- January 10-15

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<sup>1</sup> While the responses would be prepared by witnesses not scheduled for hearings in December, the same attorneys will be occupied with hearings and review of discovery responses, and the discovery may raise issues of concern to the witnesses scheduled for hearings.

<sup>2</sup> The Postal Service wishes to avoid the circumstances in prior omnibus cases in which so much discovery was filed at the discovery deadline that the Postal Service was fully occupied preparing responses up to and even beyond the response deadline.

Meehan (T-11) – Available all dates

Patelunas (T-12) – Available all dates

Van-Ty-Smith (T-13) – Available all dates

Bozzo (T-14) - December 17 and January 2

Smith (T-15) - Available all dates

Pickett (T-17) – Available all dates

Hatfield (T-18) – December 19 and 20

Takis (T-19) – January 2

Spatola (T-20) -- December 13-20

Kay (T-21) – December 13, 20; January 3, 10

Miller (T-22) - December 14, January 2

Mayes-(T-23) - Available all dates

Miller (T-24) - December 14, January 2

Eggleston (T-25) - December 17

Nieto (T-26) – January 2-4, 11-15

Rothschild (T-27) – December 18, January 2-4

Moeller (T-28) - December 13-14

Robinson (T-29) - December 14

Scherer (T-30) - Available all dates

Hope (T-31) - Available all dates

Moeller (T-32) - January 5-12

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(...continued)

<sup>3</sup> According to the schedule, discovery not on the Postal Service's direct case, but

(continued...)

Kiefer (T-33) - Available all dates

Taufique (T-34) – December 14 (am OK), 17; January 4 (am OK), 11 (am OK).

Mayo (T-35 and T-36) – Available all days, but the Postal Service requests that the two pieces of testimony for this witness be scheduled on different hearing days.

Koroma (T-37 and T-44) – January 2, but the Postal Service requests that the two pieces of testimony for this witness be scheduled on different hearing days.

Kaneer (T-38) – January 15

Kingsley (T-39) – January 2

Loetscher (T-41) - December 13-19

Abdirahman (T-42) -

Schenk (T-43) – January 2-3


The availability for witnesses Bradley (T-16), Abdirahman (T-42), and Cochrane (T-40) is forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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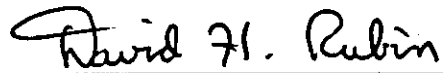
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needed to prepare participant testimony, is allowed until March 27, 2002.

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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