

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

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS NIETO
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-T26--4-6)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Nieto to the following interrogatories of Douglas F. Carlson: DFC/USPS-T26-4 to 6, filed on October 30, 2001.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



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November 14, 2001

**RESPONSE OF POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS NIETO
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-T26-4. Please describe in detail all the processes by which a customer will obtain an electronic return receipt. Please specifically explain how a customer will obtain an electronic return receipt if the customer does not visit a retail window to mail the item.

RESPONSE:

There will be two primary methods for a customer to obtain an electronic return receipt. He or she may (1) purchase it at the window or (2) purchase it online. Each process is explained below.

- (1) Customer will purchase an electronic return receipt at the window at the time of mailing the accountable piece. At time of purchase, customer will provide an e-mail address that will be captured and then sent to a secure repository server.
- (2) After sending an accountable mail piece, the customer will be able to log onto USPS.com to purchase an electronic return receipt. The customer will make a credit/debit card payment and enter his or her accountable mail piece tracking number and e-mail address.

After the piece is delivered, the accountable mail tracking number, delivery date/time information and signature image will be transmitted to the e-mail address of the recipient.

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DFC/USPS-T26-5. Please refer to your response to DFC/USPS-T26-2 and DFC/USPS-T26-3. For purposes of protecting customers' privacy and security, please explain the difference between a secure, digitally encrypted e-mail transmission and a secure browser connection on Netscape or Internet Explorer that would provide customers with a signature via their Internet browser.

RESPONSE:

It is my understanding that each option has its own security risks, but that a primary difference is that providing signature images over the Internet to any user entering an accountable mail number risks the security of potentially thousands of signatures on a publicly available server, while the risk for an e-mail transmission is limited to a single signature.

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DFC/USPS-T26-6. Please explain exactly how a secure, digitally encrypted e-mail transmission works from the recipient's perspective.

RESPONSE:

From the recipient's viewpoint, nothing is different about the encrypted e-mail message than any other normal e-mail message. The encryption and decryption takes place between the Postal Service servers and the recipient's browser. Any inappropriate access or attempt to read the e-mail message in transit would be unsuccessful because the message would be encrypted. Additionally, a secure, digitally encrypted e-mail has a legally recognized authentication certificate. The recipient's browser provides a certificate with the e-mail authenticating the transmission as being from the Postal Service and not having been tampered with en route. The encryption and the authentication protect the recipient of the accountable mail piece who provided the signature.

DECLARATION

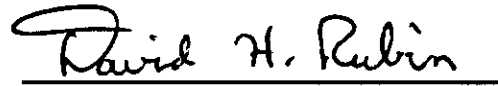
I, Norma B. Nieto, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Norma B. Nieto

Dated: NOVEMBER 14, 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.



David H. Rubin

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