

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

Complaint on First-Class Mail  
Service Standards

Docket No. C2001-3

REPLY OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO REVISED MOTION OF DOUGLAS CARLSON FOR AN EXTENSION OF  
TIME TO RESPOND TO POSTAL SERVICE OBJECTION  
(November 26, 2001)

The United States Postal Service hereby replies to the November 20, 2001, revised motion Mr. Carlson regarding interrogatory DFC/USPS-9.

By inviting Mr. Carlson to discuss potentially applicable protective conditions when it objected to this interrogatory on November 6, 2001, it was the Postal Service's intention to minimize contentious motion practice by first attempting to see if common ground existed regarding what conditions would be appropriate to apply. Mr. Carlson is correct that "[t]he files of Docket No. R2000-1 are replete with examples of motions to apply protective conditions. The record in that proceeding also is replete with pleadings reflecting the avoidance of contentious motion practice because of efforts by the parties to informally resolve differences in advance of motion practice. If Mr. Carlson prefers motion practice, so be it.

The Postal Service regards the point-to-point service performance data requested by DFC/USPS-9 to be commercially sensitive and privileged information for essentially the same reasons as are expressed in its November 14, 2001, opposition to the motion to compel a response to DFC/USPS-1. The arguments there, in reference to public disclosure of Origin-Destination Information System (ODIS) point-to-point volume data, apply with equal strength to the disclosure of the ODIS point-to-point service performance data requested

in DFC/USPS-9.

Accordingly, the Postal Service is prepared to provide the requested point-to-point service performance data for purposes of Docket No. C2001-3, but only if such data remain subject to conditions that prevent their public disclosure and protect the commercial and competitive interests of the Postal Service.

Protective conditions which can accomplish this purpose have been applied by the Commission previously. A recent example is the set of conditions imposed in connection with Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2001-1/5 (October 31, 2001).

Accordingly, the Postal Service moves that such conditions be imposed here.

It is hoped that this reply is helpful in helping to frame the issues to be raised in the motion to compel which, by virtue of Presiding Officer's Ruling No. C2001-3/5 (November 20, 2001) , Mr. Carlson anticipates filing on or before December 3, 2001. Alternatively, it is hoped that this reply encourages a response to the Postal Service's November 6, 2001, invitation to discuss protective conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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Ratemaking

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**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 all parties of record in this proceeding.

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Michael T. Tidwell

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