

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001

Docket No. R2001-1

OBJECTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-38 THROUGH 40 AND 56(i&j))
(December 5, 2001)

In accordance with Rule 26 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the United States Postal Service hereby files these objections to the following interrogatories filed by Mr. Popkin on November 26, 2001: DBP/USPS-38 through 40 and 56(i&j).

DBP/USPS-38

The Postal Service objects to all of the subparts of this interrogatory as requesting information irrelevant, immaterial and unnecessary to the resolution of the issues in the instant proceeding. To the extent that these questions have been asked and answered in concurrent Docket No. C2001-3, the Postal Service should not be burdened with responding to the same questions in Docket No. R2001-1. Mr. Popkin is free to move to designate the Docket No. C2001-3 responses to these same questions into the Docket No. R2001-1 record, subject to any opposition filed by any Docket No. R2001-1 parties on the grounds of relevance.

DBP/USPS-39 and 40

The Postal Service also objects to these interrogatories as requesting information irrelevant, immaterial and unnecessary to the resolution of the issues in this proceeding. Many subparts of each interrogatory have been asked and

responded to in Docket No. C2001-3.¹

To the extent that these questions have been asked and answered in concurrent Docket No. C2001-3, the Postal Service should not be burdened with responding to the same questions in Docket No. R2001-1. Mr. Popkin is free to move to designate the Docket No. C2001-3 responses into the Docket No. R2001-1 record, subject to any opposition filed by any Docket No. R2001-1 parties. Otherwise, given the subject matter of these interrogatories, propounding any subparts in Docket No. R2001-1 that were not asked and answered in Docket No. C2001-3 is a transparent attempt to circumvent the deadline for initial discovery in the latter proceeding.

DBP/USPS-56(i and j)

These interrogatories seeks a level of EXFC administrative minutiae that is irrelevant, immaterial, and unnecessary to the resolution of the issues in this proceeding. The subject matter of these interrogatories is arguably related to issues in concurrent Docket No. C2001-1. However, the Docket No. R2001-1 rate recommendations of the Commission will not be influenced by (i) whether there is a policy that permits certain collection boxes to be omitted as candidates for EXFC test mail deposit the day before a holiday or (j) a listing of the specific collection boxes in which it was requested that EXFC test mail pieces not be deposited on the day before specific holidays in the last year.

To the extent that these questions have been asked and answered in concurrent Docket No. C2001-1, the Postal Service should not be burdened with

¹ With the obvious exception of DBP/USPS-40(g-i), which the Presiding Officer ruled the Postal Service did not have to answer in the form of various subparts to Docket No. C2001-3 interrogatory DBP/USPS-27. See Presiding Officer's Ruling No. C2001-3/3, at 13-14. (November 14, 2001).

responding to the same questions in Docket No. R2001-1. Mr. Popkin is free to move to designate any Docket No. C2001-1 responses into the Docket No. R2001-1 record, subject to any opposition filed by any Docket No. R2001-1 parties.

Should he respond to this pleading, Mr. Popkin is asked to identify which of the subparts of the Docket No. R2001-1 interrogatories objected to here were not asked and responded to in either Docket Nos. C2001-1 or C2001-3.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel
Ratemaking

Michael T. Tidwell
Attorney

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.

Michael T. Tidwell

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260–1137
(202) 268-2998/ FAX: -5402
December 5, 2001