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ORDER NO. 1334

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

George A. Omas, Chairman;
Dana B. Covington and
Ruth Y. Goldway

Ride-Along Experiment Extension

Docket No. MC2001-3

ORDER ON POSTAL SERVICE MOTION
CONCERNING UNOPPOSED STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT
IN DOCKET NO. MC2001-3

(Issued December 11, 2001)

This order addresses the Postal Service's Motion for Consideration of Stipulation and Agreement, December 7, 2001 (Postal Service Motion) and related matters concerning Docket No. MC2001-3, Ride-Along Experiment Extension. These pertain primarily to participants' positions on the merits of the settlement; requested Commission action; and certain procedural steps.

With respect to the merits, the Service notes that the settlement is unopposed and states that it represents the signatories' negotiated settlement of all issues raised in this proceeding. It explains that as indicated in a previous status report, participants considered whether an adjustment in proposed Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS) language might be required, but are satisfied with the original wording.¹ The Service also transmits, with the motion, signature pages executing the agreement from American Business Media, the Association for Postal Commerce, Magazine Publishers of America, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate.² It states that David B. Popkin has indicated he will not oppose the agreement. Postal Service Motion at 1-2.

¹ See Report of United States Postal Service as Settlement Coordinator, filed October 26, 2001.

² The Service's signature page accompanied the original filing.

In terms of Commission action, the Service requests, on behalf of itself and the other signatories, issuance of an opinion and recommended decision based upon the evidence submitted by the Postal Service with its request, including recommendation of the DMCS change proposed therein. The Service says it will provide a signed declaration from witness Koroma (USPS-T-1) to facilitate entering his testimony into the record of this proceeding. *Id.* at 1.

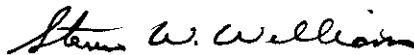
Discussion. The Commission appreciates the Postal Service's efforts in acting as settlement coordinator, as well as all participants' cooperation in reaching an unopposed settlement in this case. Before final action can be taken on the motion, the material identified in paragraph 2 of the Stipulation and Agreement (consisting of Postal Service witness Koroma's Docket No. MC2001-3 direct testimony, the Service's Docket No. MC2001-3 Request, and the attachment containing DMCS 443.1a) must be entered into evidence. As no formal hearings have been held in this proceeding, the Commission will accept witness Koroma's signed declaration attesting to the truth and accuracy of his testimony. Barring an objection, the Commission anticipates entering the referenced material into the evidentiary record and closing the record upon submission of witness Koroma's declaration. Objections to this course of action are to be filed within 7 days of the issuance of this order.

It is ordered:

1. The Postal Service is directed to promptly file the signed declaration of witness Koroma attesting to the truth and accuracy of his testimony (USPS-T-1) in this proceeding

2. Objections to the proposed course of action for admitting material into the record of this proceeding and closing the record are to be filed within 7 days of the issuance of this order.

By the Commission
(SEAL)



Steven W. Williams
Acting Secretary