

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
TO INTERROGATORIES OF
AOL-TIME WARNER
(AOL-TW/USPS-33-34)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of AOL-Time Warner: AOL-TW/USPS-33-34, filed on November 28, 2001.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys

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December 12, 2001

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AOL-TW/USPS-33 Please refer to the policy, described in your response to AOL-TW/USPS-28, of routinely flying certain Periodicals from Seattle to Anchorage.

- a. Was the establishment and continuation of this policy for more than twenty years based on a decision made at USPS headquarters, or was it a regional or local decision? Please explain fully.
- b. In establishing and maintaining this policy for more than 20 years, was any consideration given to the fact that some weekly Periodicals all along have been paying for their own air transportation to Alaska? Please explain fully.
- c. Has the desirability of maintaining such a policy been discussed with representatives of the Periodicals industry? If yes, what was the outcome of those discussions?
- d. Has the desirability of maintaining such a policy been discussed with representatives of the Periodicals involved? If yes, what was the outcome of those discussions?

RESPONSE:

- a. The decision was made by the old Western Regional Office with concurrence from Headquarters.
- b. The intent of this revision was to provide "like" service to existing postal customers that would have been significantly impacted by the change in surface transportation. The mail was designed for transport on a space available basis so Express, Priority and FCM would not be displaced. The Shipper tendered the product as normal and the Postal Service decided on which flight and day the Periodicals were moved. There is no arrival guarantee provided the shipper but the arrival pattern meets the previous transit time. This volume has for the last several years been moved on dedicated postal air transportation on a space available basis.

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c. There has been discussion at various times with the Periodical shippers involved as we addressed if this policy should remain in place. They are universally in favor of its retention.

d. See the response to subpart c above.

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- a. Is water transport the normal mode of surface transportation used by the Postal Service between Seattle and Anchorage? If no, please explain what mode of surface transport is normally used.
- b. What is the average per pound and per pound-mile cost of transporting Periodicals by boat?

RESPONSE

- a. Yes.
- b. The average cost per pound and pound-mile of transporting Periodicals by boat is unknown.

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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