

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 THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO
MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-72, 76(B))
(December 26, 2001)

The United States Postal Service hereby responds to David B. Popkin's motion to compel responses to interrogatories DBP/USPS-72 and 76(b), filed on December 17, 2001.

Interrogatories DBP/USPS-72 and 76(b) request information about the level of service and/or compliance with the requirements for return receipt service in the past 11 years, and letters or directives on the procedures for handling certified mail and return receipts since Docket No. R90-1. The Postal Service provided responsive materials available at Headquarters, issued from FY 2000 until the present, but objected to providing older materials, or field documents not available at Headquarters, on the grounds of relevance, overbreadth, burden, and commercial sensitivity.

Mr. Popkin says he is willing to limit the interrogatories to documents from the start of Docket No. R2000-1, if this provides him complete data in conjunction with previous responses to similar interrogatories in prior dockets. The Postal Service's offer to provide documents from FY 2000 until the present was intended to cover any responsive documents that might have been issued since the last rate case. Discovery responses in that case were provided midway through FY 2000. Moreover, the Postal Service is willing to rely on its responses to Mr. Popkin's interrogatories in past dockets

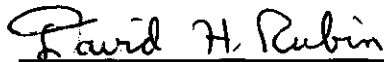
as covering periods prior to FY 2000.

Finally, on December 19, 2001, after the filing of Mr. Popkin's motion to compel, the Postal Service filed its response to interrogatory OCA/USPS-236. This response, which is already referenced in the response to interrogatory DBP/USPS-72, includes about 40 pages of attachments concerning certified mail and return receipt practices and directives, most of which originate from or concern area offices and the field. This response, in conjunction with related responses provided to Mr. Popkin, Mr. Carlson, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate, should satisfy Mr. Popkin's concern about data from area offices, and in any case fills the need for a record on which to evaluate rate case issues relating to certified mail and return receipts. The Postal Service therefore believes that the issues raised in Mr. Popkin's motion to compel have been resolved.

Respectfully submitted,


UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorney:


David H. Rubin

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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