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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

PRESIDING OFFICERS
RULING NO. R2001-1/30

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

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2001-1

PRESIDING OFFICERS RULING
ADJUSTING THE HEARING SCHEDULE
AND OTHER PROCEDURAL DATES

(Issued January 8, 2002)

Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2001-1/27, issued December 31, 2001 gave notice of a proposed stipulation and agreement and established initial procedural steps for its consideration. Participants were directed to indicate by January 7, 2002 whether cross-examination of Postal Service witnesses was necessary to evaluate the proposed stipulation. On review of these submissions, the schedule for receiving the direct case of the Postal Service is amended as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| January 9, 2002 | Taufique (USPS-T-34) Mayo (USPS-T-36) Miller (USPS-T-22) Robinson (USPS-T-29) |
| January 10, 2002 | Loetscher (USPS-T-41) Hope (USPS-T-31) |
| January 11, 2002 | Kingsley (USPS-T-39) Moeller (USPS-T-28) |

There have been no requests for cross-examination related to the proposed stipulation for other Postal Service witnesses. Participants intending to designate written cross-examination for other Postal Service witnesses should do so on or before January 14, 2002, and the Postal Service should provide declarations of authenticity for

the testimony and designated written cross-examination by January 22, 2002. The testimony and written cross-examination of the remaining Postal Service witnesses will then be entered into evidence.'

Certain other procedural dates established in P.O. Ruling R2001-1/27 also will be adjusted. Participants intending to oppose any aspect of the proposed stipulation were to file their Notice of Opposition with the Commission on or before January 18, 2002. Those Notices will now be due on or before January 16, 2002. The Notices of Opposition will be reviewed to evaluate whether there will be sufficient time to consider all contested issues and still provide a timely recommended decision. A preliminary finding on that issue will be made by January 18, 2002.

If the preliminary finding is that it is feasible to consider the proposed stipulation and agreement, participants may offer suggested procedural mechanisms and schedules that provide due process to participants opposing the stipulation. Those suggestions are to be filed on or before January 22, 2002. Responses to those suggestions may be filed by January 28, 2002. The date for filing testimony in opposition to the proposed stipulation remains January 30, 2002.

RULING

1. Hearings to allow for cross-examination of Postal Service witnesses for the purpose of evaluating the proposed stipulation will be held January 9-11, 2002 as detailed in the body of this Ruling.
2. Designations of written cross-examination shall be filed by January 14, 2002.

¹ This includes witnesses Tayman (T-6), Van-Ty-Smith (T-13), Bozzo (T-14), Hatfield (T-18), Takis (T-19), Spatola (T-20), Eggleston (T-25), Nieto (T-26), Rothschild (T-27), Scherer (T-30), Kiefer (USPS-T-33), Mayo (T-35), Koroma (T-37 and T-44), Kaneer (T-38), Cochrane (T-40), and Abdirahman (USPS-T-42).

3. Participants opposing the proposed stipulation, in whole or in part, shall file their Notice of Opposition by January **16**, 2002.
4. Proposed procedural mechanisms and schedules for subsequent steps in the case may be submitted by January 22, 2002, and replies may be submitted by January 28, 2002.
5. The due date **for** evidence in opposition to the stipulation and agreement is January 30, 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Omas", written in a cursive style.

George Omas
Presiding Officer