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PRESIDING OFFICER'S  
RULING NO. C2001-3/19

POSTAL SERVICE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Complaint on First-Class Mail Service Standards

Docket No. C2001-3

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING SUSPENDING DEADLINE  
FOR FILING OF DIRECT CASE

(Issued February 6, 2002)

Complainant Carlson seeks an extension of the February 7, 2002 deadline for filing his direct case.<sup>1</sup> He proposes a new deadline 4½ weeks after the Postal Service has filed all responses to outstanding discovery requests. In support of this request, Mr. Carlson cites outstanding discovery requests and the unresolved dispute over disclosure of certain volume and delivery performance data. Douglas F. Carlson Motion to Suspend Deadline to File Direct Case, February 1, 2002 (Carlson Motion to Suspend Filing Deadline) at 1.

Mr. Carlson also asks that the suspension ruling authorize informal discussions between the complainant and the Postal Service on related details (such as how the 4½-week period will be triggered) and designate the complainant as a liaison for purposes of reporting on extension-related matters. Mr. Carlson notes that he is authorized to state that the Postal Service agrees with this proposal. *Id.* at 1-2.

*Ruling.* An extension of the filing date for complainant's direct case is warranted. The proposal suggested here – a date 4½ weeks following submission of the Service's responses to discovery – also appears, at this time, to be an appropriate

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<sup>1</sup> In P.O. Ruling C2001-3/11, complainant Carlson's motion for extension of the original January 7, 2002 deadline was granted. Douglas F. Carlson Motion for an Extension of Time to File Direct Case, November 30, 2001. In that motion, Mr. Carlson noted, among other things, that a hearing date of February 5, 2002, had been set in a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation over the Postal Service's Collection Box Management System database.

alternative. To facilitate this extension, I authorize informal discussions among the interested parties and designate the complainant as reporting liaison.

The participants' cooperation in pursuing this extension is appreciated.

#### RULING

1. The Douglas F. Carlson Motion to Suspend Deadline to File Direct Case, February 1, 2002 (Carlson Motion to Suspend Filing Deadline) is granted.
2. The complainant and the Postal Service are authorized to engage in informal discussions concerning implementation of this extension.
3. The complainant is designated as the reporting liaison for purposes of this extension.

  
Ruth Y. Goldway  
Presiding Officer