

ORDER NO. 1360

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

Before Commissioners:

George Omas, Chairman;  
Dana B. Covington, Sr., Vice Chairman;  
Ruth Y. Goldway; and Tony Hammond

Periodic Reporting

Docket No. RM2003-3

ORDER AUTHORIZING SCHEDULING OF  
INFORMAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

(Issued February 12, 2003)

On January 8, 2003, the Commission issued Order No. 1358, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking soliciting comments on proposed changes to the Commission's rule establishing periodic reporting requirements [39 CFR § 3001.102]. Its most significant proposal is that the Cost and Revenue Analysis (CRA) that the Postal Service provides each year be accompanied by standard supporting documentation. It proposed that this documentation be provided in a form that is PC compatible where the additional burden of doing so is modest. It suggested that if the Postal Service believes that there are substantial obstacles to providing this documentation in the proposed format, that it seek to clarify these issues in an informal conference with the Commission's technical staff and the interested public. Order No. 1358 at 7.

In its initial comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Postal Service indicated that there are potentially significant issues concerning the application of these proposed rule changes, and the potential burden of providing the requested documentation in the proposed format. It also expressed its wish to examine these issues in an informal conference with the Commission's technical staff. It seeks the Commission's consent to contact the Commission's staff to schedule such a conference. It indicates its belief that the exchange of information at such a conference

would better prepare it to offer “formal” comments on the Commission’s proposed amendments to Rule 102. Initial Comments of the United States Postal Service, filed February 10, 2003, at 3-4.

The Commission gives the Postal Service the requested consent to contact the Commission’s staff and arrange an informal conference clarifying the objectives of these proposals and the potential burdens of complying with them. John Waller, (202) 789-6865, is the appropriate contact.

The Commission would prefer that such a conference be arranged at the earliest feasible time. It is the Commission’s hope that the time and date of such a conference could be settled upon within the next several days, and that the conference could be held before the end of February.

In order to facilitate the work of the conference, the Commission requests that the Postal Service provide a list of items that it would like to address that is suitable for posting on the Commission’s website. The more specific the list, the more likely that it will ensure that the conference will be productive. For example, it would be beneficial if the list indicated which specific reports the Postal Service believes would be burdensome to produce in a PC compatible format.

If the conference that the Postal Service contemplates can be arranged in the time frame suggested above, the Commission expects to extend the date for filing the Postal Service’s “formal” comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and to modestly extend the deadline for filing reply comments.

It is ordered:

1. The Postal Service shall schedule an informal conference with the staff of the Commission and the interested public to discuss the amendments to Rule 102 of the Commission’s rules of practice that are proposed in Order No. 1358.

2. The Postal Service shall provide the Commission with a list of specific items that it would like to address in the informal conference.

By the Commission.  
(SEAL)

Steven W. Williams  
Secretary