

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, 1997

Docket No. R97-1

OBJECTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO UPS/USPS-T16-25
(September 15, 1997)

The United States Postal Service hereby objects, in part, to interrogatory UPS/USPS-T16-25, filed on September 8, 1997. The discovery request asks witness Hatfield to "identify, describe and provide the results of all . . . tests, surveys, and analyses [regarding savings of transportation costs because of DBMC Parcel Post], and provide copies of all notes, reports, workpapers and other source documents used." The Postal Service objects to this broad interrogatory on the basis of relevance and privilege, to the extent that it would have the Postal Service produce material that is preliminary, predecisional or in draft form.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice, discovery is to be "limited to information which appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence." 39 U.S.C. § 3001.25(a). Being required to provide materials still in draft form, which are, moreover, not relied upon by the Postal Service as the basis for its proposals in this proceeding, would not only interfere with the Postal Service's ongoing analysis of its costs, but such disclosure would fall within the privilege for government documents, which protects the deliberative process of the government against unwarranted exposure. No interest that would be furthered by producing any draft

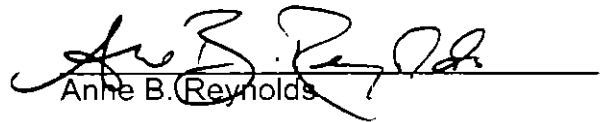
reports or analyses, which are unlikely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, would outweigh this intrusion.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Anne B. Reynolds

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.



Anne B. Reynolds

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