

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R97-1/23

SEP 19 8 38 AM '97

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R97-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
ON OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

(September 19, 1997)

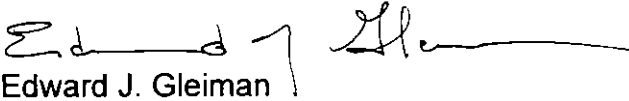
On September 18, 1997, the Office of the Consumer Advocate Motion to Compel Response to Interrogatories OCA/USPS-T32-57b and OCA/USPS-8, Motion for Expedited Ruling as to OCA/USPS-8, and Motion for Late Acceptance was filed in this docket. In support of the motion for late acceptance, the Office of the Consumer Advocate indicates that the time for filing a motion to compel a response to OCA/USPS-8 has passed, but that in light of P. O. Ruling R97-1/20 and Notice of Inquiry No. 1, issued September 17, 1997, the issues presented by its motion to compel remain live, and no party will be prejudiced by consideration of this motion. I will accept the motion to compel response to OCA/USPS-8.

The OCA further requests an expedited ruling on its motion to compel OCA/USPS-8. I am hopeful that an accommodation acceptable to all parties will arise from additional consideration of the proper status of library references in Commission proceedings. Such a result will be more difficult to achieve if participants are subject to exceptionally tight deadlines for responses on the issues raised by OCA in its motion. A ruling will issue promptly following the receipt of relevant pleadings.

RULING

1. The Office of the Consumer Advocate Motion for Late Acceptance of its Motion to Compel a Response to Interrogatories OCA/USPS-T32-57b and OCA/USPS-8 is granted.

2. The Office of the Consumer Advocate motion requesting expedited action on its motion to compel a response to OCA/USPS-8 is denied.


Edward J. Gleiman
Presiding Officer