

DOCKET SECTION  
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

PARTIAL OBJECTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO UNITED  
PARCEL SERVICE INTERROGATORY UPS/USPS-T13-36  
(September 26, 1997)

The United States Postal Service hereby objects in part to United Parcel Service interrogatory UPS/USPS-T13-36, filed on September 16, 1997. The information requested is irrelevant, burdensome to produce and may contain commercially sensitive and proprietary matter. Also, some of the information has already been produced or is otherwise publicly available.

UPS/USPS-T13-36 states:

Please provide the most recent version of all Postal Service manuals, handbooks, forms, instructions and other publications concerning the contracting, management and administration of highway contracts.

The requested information, which could encompass numerous documents, is irrelevant to witness Bradley's analysis. The purpose of witness Bradley's testimony is "to update and refine the analysis of purchased highway transportation done by the Postal Rate Commission . . . in Docket No. R87-1." *USPS-T-5, at 2*. Witness Bradley is not sponsoring a seminar on the Postal Service's management or administration of highway contracts; rather he is estimating variabilities for purchased highway transportation costs.

Further, much information on the Postal Service's purchased highway contract system has already been provided in this and previous dockets. For example,

witness Bradley has responded in this docket to a number of interrogatories concerning the purchased highway transportation system, including responses on flexibility in the purchased transportation network (FGFSA/USPS-T2-42) and on how the need for a change in capacity is determined when a highway contract is about to be bid (FGFSA/USPS-T13-7). As another example, in Docket No. MC97-2, he provided 43 pages of standard Postal Service contract forms in response to interrogatory OCA/USPS-T4-9. In many previous dockets, information on Postal Service purchased highway transportation contracting and management was provided.

In addition, the Postal Service will provide a response, listing certain publications, such as the Postal Service Purchasing Manual, which contain information related to highway contracting, and which are available in the Postal Service library. More than enough information has been provided for UPS to analyze witness Bradley's analysis and to draw whatever conclusions it wishes about the Postal Service's purchased highway transportation system and to forge whatever links, however attenuated, between those conclusions and witness Bradley's analysis.

Some information covered by the request could contain commercially sensitive information. Instructions, for example, could contain commercially sensitive or proprietary information such as Origin-Destination pair information, contractor cost information, or internal Postal Service contract or transportation policy or strategy information.

Also, provision of the requested information would be unduly burdensome. It is possible that each of the twelve DNO's would have to be contacted and asked to provide forms and instructions that may differ from office to office. The time required to do this cannot be estimated, because it is not clear how long it would take each DNO to search its files and produce the requested information. Also, as the Postal Service has noted in previous objections, there is a training and user manual for HCSS. *See Objection of United States Postal Service to Office of the Consumer Advocate Interrogatories OCA/USPS-T13-2 and 23(b), July 28, 1997.* The manual is over 600 pages. Before it could be produced, it would have to be reviewed in detail by counsel and postal transportation personnel to redact any commercially sensitive or proprietary information. It is estimated that review, potential redaction and reproduction of this material would take a minimum of four full uninterrupted days -- valuable time that would be taken away from and likely delay responses to other legitimate discovery requests.

UPS has taken an active role in this docket as well as prior Commission proceedings where a wealth of information on Postal Service purchased highway transportation has been made available. In addition, UPS certainly has the resources to do some research in the Postal Service library. The Postal Service should not be required to respond to this irrelevant and burdensome request.

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Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE


By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
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Susan M. Duchek

**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.

  
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Susan M. Duchek

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