

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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EXPERIMENTAL PREMIUM  
FORWARDING SERVICE

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Docket No. MC2005-1

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF  
SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES  
(November 19, 2004)

The United States Postal Service hereby requests that the Commission establish settlement procedures for this proceeding. The Postal Service is proposing a two-year experiment involving the introduction of a reshipping service—Premium Forwarding Service (PFS)—for customers who temporarily relocate for a period between two weeks and one year. PFS shipments will be sent once a week via Priority Mail<sup>®</sup>; customers will be charged a one-time enrollment fee and a fixed per-shipment fee based upon the number of reshipments they receive. The proposed experimental classification is simple and of a limited scope and duration. PFS simply constitutes an additional service for customers who temporarily relocate, and does not change any of the options currently available for such customers.

Testimony supporting the PFS Request is straightforward. Witness Cobb (USPS-T-1) describes the service and explains how it will work operationally. Witness Koroma (USPS-T-4) uses the costs developed by witness Abdirahman (USPS-T-3) and a market demand study presented by witness Rothschild

(USPS-T-2) to develop the proposed classification and related fees in conformity with the applicable criteria of the Postal Reorganization Act.

The Postal Service believes that PFS' customer benefits and minor financial impact, along with the fact that PFS costs are all volume-variable, may increase the likelihood of settlement. Settlement could also aid the Commission in meeting the schedule established by Rule 67d, which calls for the Commission to issue a recommended decision within 150 days of the filing of a Request for an experimental classification or of a determination that the case may properly be considered under the experimental rules, whichever is later. The Postal Service accordingly requests that its lead attorney, Mr. Hollies, be appointed settlement coordinator.

The Postal Service also asks that the Commission facilitate a possible settlement by making its hearing room available for a settlement conference. Should the Commission specify a range of dates for such a conference two or more business days prior to the prehearing conference, the Postal Service could then consult participants and set, by the filing of a formal notice, the date and time for the settlement conference. To the extent found necessary, the Postal Service's witnesses could be made available during any settlement conference to answer questions informally, off-the-record, and without the use of recording devices. Postal Service counsel would then report orally to the Commission during the prehearing conference on what transpired at the settlement conference, and whether settlement appears likely.

The minimal classification changes embodied in the Request should lend themselves to expeditious and uncomplicated review. In light of the foregoing, and of the flexibility envisioned by the experimental rules, the Postal Service requests the Commission's assistance in establishing settlement procedures for this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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David H. Rubin  
Sheela Portonovo  
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### **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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Kenneth N. Hollies

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November 19, 2004