

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

Before Commissioners:

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

Proposed Amendment to the  
Commission's Rules

Docket No. RM2004-1

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION

(Issued December 9, 2004)

The Postal Service requests an extension of time to file initial comments in this proceeding from December 15, 2004 to February 1, 2005.<sup>1</sup> In support of its motion, the Postal Service indicates it needs more time to consider the “full ramifications” of the proposed definition, citing the need to consult with several departments and levels of management.<sup>2</sup> It states that this task is made more difficult during the holiday season and, along with various year-end activities, supports the need for the relatively lengthy extension proposed.

While the Commission would ordinarily await the receipt of answers to the motion, if any, before ruling, it has concluded that, in this instance, the issue raised does not require it to defer ruling until after the due date for answers (December 10, 2004). Several factors influenced this decision. First and foremost, no party to the proceeding or any interested person who might submit comments will be prejudiced by the extension. Second, the due date for initial comments is rapidly approaching. By ruling

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<sup>1</sup> Motion of the United States Postal Service to Extend Deadline for Comments in Response to Commission Order No. 1424, December 3, 2004.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 1-2.

now, the Commission apprises all interested persons of the extension as early as practicable so that they may adjust their calendars accordingly. Finally, the motion is uncontroversial, with the possible exception of the length of the extension requested. The Postal Service has, however, provided sufficient justification for an extension and, accordingly, the motion is granted.

In granting the motion, the Commission hopes that the extra time will enable the Postal Service to more fully consider the issues raised and, as a result, will generate a more thoughtful exchange than might have been possible under the initial schedule. For the foregoing reasons, the Postal Service's motion for an extension of time is granted. Initial comments are due February 1, 2005, with reply comments due March 1, 2005.

It is ordered:

1. The Motion of the United States Postal Service to Extend Deadline for Comments in Response to Commission Order No. 1424, December 3, 2004, is granted.
2. Initial comments in this proceeding are due February 1, 2005.
3. Reply comments are due March 1, 2005.

By the Commission  
(SEAL)

Steven W. Williams  
Secretary