

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

EXPERIMENTAL PREMIUM
FORWARDING SERVICE

Docket No. MC2005-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE,
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS KOROMA
(OCA/USPS-T4-25)
(February 10, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the institutional response to the following interrogatory of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T4-25, filed on January 27, 2005. This interrogatory follows up the institutional response previously provided to interrogatory OCA/USPS-T4-19; accordingly, this interrogatory has also been redirected from witness Koroma for an institutional response.

The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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OCA/USPS-T4-25. Please refer to your response to OCA/USPS-T4-19(c), where, with reference to the statistical probability that the ODIS-RPW sampling system will sample a PFS Priority Mail piece, it states “The correct probability cannot easily be determined, and may be larger or smaller.” Please explain what factors would cause the probability to be either larger or smaller.

RESPONSE:

ODIS-RPW is a probability-based multi-stage sample of mail. As such, the probability of selection for any given mail piece is the product of the selection probabilities for each stage. The probabilities of selection vary across geographic areas. If the geographic distribution of PFS pieces were identical to the distribution of all Priority Mail, then the proposed statistical probability posited in interrogatory OCA/USPS-T4-19(c) could be supported. However, the geographic distribution of PFS pieces may not resemble the distribution of all Priority Mail. See USPS-T-4 at 4. Therefore, the sampling probability could be either lower or higher. Also, from a strict sample design perspective, the calculated probability is just one possible outcome, which in itself follows a probability distribution whose outcomes fall either above or below the population mean.