

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

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2005) Docket No. R2005-1

**COMMENTS OF
AMERICAN BUSINESS MEDIA,
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC.,
THE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS PRESS ASSOCIATIONS
AND
THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
ON DURATION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF DISCOVERY
(May 12, 2005)**

In accordance with the schedule prescribed by the Presiding officer at the prehearing conference, American Business Media, Magazine Publishers of America, Inc., the Coalition of Religious Press Associations and the National Newspaper Association (“Periodical Associations”) hereby offer their brief comments on the appropriate end date for the first round of discovery in this docket.

Periodicals Associations understand that this initial discovery period must be sufficient to permit those parties engaging in discovery to seek and obtain relevant information, in accordance with the Commission’s rules and due process. But Periodicals Associations also contend that the unusual posture of this case, including the fact that discovery is being pursued by relatively few parties (which should permit prompt and thorough responses), supports the notion that discovery can be somewhat more abbreviated than in traditional omnibus rate cases.

Therefore, Periodicals Associations support the Postal Service's request for a June 10th cut-off, which will allow for an initial discovery period of more than two months. This very modest expedition will, we hope, permit the parties to develop a useful record and pursue the settlement alternative to full-scale, time-consuming and high-cost litigation in a manner that will not jeopardize the chances of arriving at a settlement of most if not all issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 12, 2005