

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

RATE AND SERVICE CHANGES TO IMPLEMENT  
BASELINE NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT  
WITH BOOKSPAN

Docket No. MC2005-3

REPLY OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO RESPONSES OF VALPAK AND NAA REGARDING THE BRIEFING SCHEDULE

The United States Postal Service hereby replies to the responses of Valpak<sup>1</sup> and NAA<sup>2</sup> to OCA's suggested briefing schedule. As noted by Bookspan yesterday, the Postal Service generally supports the schedule proposed by the OCA, with a slight modification of the dates to the November 14 and 22 for initial and reply briefs, respectively. The November 14 date is three-and-a-half weeks after the conclusion of hearings in this docket, which is generous, compared with the schedules of most cases before the Commission.<sup>3</sup>

Valpak and NAA seek an additional three weeks from the future date of a ruling setting briefing dates. Assuming an expeditious ruling, this would coincide with the Thanksgiving period and would also result in personal time conflicts for undersigned counsel during the week of November 28. Accordingly, if the Commission is inclined to delay the briefing schedule beyond the dates suggested by the OCA or Bookspan and

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<sup>1</sup> Response of Valpak Direct Marketing Systems, Inc. and Valpak Dealers' Association, Inc. to the Office of the Consumer Advocate's Notice and Proposed Briefing Schedule (October 31, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> Newspaper Association of America Comments on Office of the Consumer Advocate Suggestion Re Briefing Schedule (November 1, 2005).

<sup>3</sup> In Docket No. R2005-1, there were ten calendar days between the date set for rebuttal hearings to end and initial briefs to be filed.

the Postal Service, the Postal Service requests, but only in the alternative, that the dates be set as November 22 for initial briefs and December 6 for reply briefs. The Postal Service continues to believe that November 14 and 22 provide adequate time, given the straightforward facts and limited issues in this docket.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

Scott L. Reiter

#### **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.

Scott L. Reiter

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November 1, 2005