

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON DC 20268-0001

Postal Rate Commission  
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EVOLUTIONARY NETWORK DEVELOPMENT]  
SERVICE CHANGES, 2006]

DOCKET NO. N2006-1

DAVID B. POPKIN MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSE TO INTERROGATORIES DBP/USPS-  
85[b]. 87, and 88

I move to compel responses to the interrogatories submitted to the United States Postal Service that have been objected to by them.

May 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

N20061MTC2

DAVID B. POPKIN, POST OFFICE BOX 528, ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631-0528

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On May 11, 2006, I submitted Interrogatories DBP/USPS-85[b], 87, and 88. On May 18, 2006, the Postal Service filed an objection to those interrogatories.

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The interrogatory reads as follows:

DBP/USPS-85[b] Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-71. [b] For each of the specific independent or subsidiary offices that had one or more of the 161 boxes under their jurisdiction changed from a final collection time of 5 PM to 4 PM, please provide a listing of the before consolidation and after consolidation times of the final dispatch to the plant from each of the involved offices.

The Postal Service states that the interrogatory seeks a level of operational minutiae that is unnecessary. The object of this Interrogatory is to attempt to evaluate the reason why the final weekday collection time on 161 collection boxes was changed from 5 PM to 4 PM. The Postal Service appears to have a policy of eliminating 5 PM collection times from collection boxes throughout the country and making them earlier. My objective is to determine if the advancing of the collection time at these boxes was required due to the plant consolidation and the need for an earlier dispatch to the new plant or was not related to the plant consolidation but was due to other operational needs or desires. To the extent that the consolidation required the

advancing of the collection times, it is important to take this into account in the consolidation process. To the extent that it was not required by the consolidation process, it is also important to know that. In other words, if the dispatch time to the plant remained the same or became later after consolidation and yet the collection time was moved from 5 PM to 4 PM, it was certainly not due to the plant consolidation.

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The interrogatory reads as follows:

**DBP/USPS-87** Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-6. Please provide your best estimate of the percentage of processing facilities that do not provide overnight First-Class Mail service standards to all of the SCF or 3-digit ZIP Code destinations that have a transit time of three hours or less dock-to-dock and receive 1.5% or more of the originating volume of the facility.

Witness Shah's testimony contains an attachment showing the service standards for various classes of mail, including the criteria for overnight First-Class Mail. For whatever reason Witness Shah felt it was important to introduce this information in the testimony, it should be subject to evaluation by the participants in this Docket. Now that the Postal Service has indicated that the Northern New Jersey Metro P&DC facility in Teterboro, New Jersey had numerous facilities that were within the requirements for consideration for overnight standards and yet were made into a 2-day delivery standard.

This now leads to the next step in the follow-up procedure to determine the extent that other processing facilities either meet or do not meet the criteria that Witness Shah stated in his testimony. Rather than ask the Postal Service to evaluate each and every facility to see if it complies, I am willing to accept a best estimate of the degree of compliance with their own stated criteria.

I filed a number of interrogatories which were related to the evaluation of the 2-day vs. 3-day delivery standards line. In the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-73 subpart f, the Postal Service indicated that the 12-hour drive criteria was utilized in all instances other than a very low number of instances.

**DBP/USPS-73** Please refer to your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-57. [f] Please advise the approximate percentage of ZIP Code origin-destination pairs that are in compliance with the national service standards. Please provide separate responses for overnight, 2-day, and 3-day standards as well as a combined response.

## RESPONSE

(e-f) In order to confirm that the currently published service standards for all of the approximately 850,000 ZIP Code pairs for each mail class are correct or otherwise described in your question, the Postal Service would have to manually examine the service standards indicated for each pair in the database on which the Service Standards CD-ROM is based and compare them to the appropriate definitions for each mail class. The exceptions noted in Docket No. C2001-3 were identifiable because they had recently been implemented. Errors get discovered during routine, task-oriented analysis of data for particular ZIP Code pairs. It is not known with any precision to what degree the database may contain exceptions or errors. The percentage of non-compliance is presumed to be very low.

The Postal Service has indicated that the percentage of non-compliance with the 12-hour drive time as the dividing line between 2-day and 3-day delivery standards is presumed to be very low. I am now attempting to determine the percentage of compliance with the 3-hour drive time / 1.5% of the mail volume as the dividing line between overnight and 2-day delivery standards.

The purpose of this Docket is to evaluate the service standards that have been stated by Witness Shah and to determine the extent that they are appropriate.

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The interrogatory reads as follows:

DBP/USPS-88                    If your response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-87 is anything less than the value implied by the last sentence of the response to Interrogatory DBP/USPS-73 subparts e and f as it relates to the non-compliance of the guidelines to determine the "line" between 2-day and 3-day service, please discuss why the "line" between overnight and 2-day service is not complied with to the same extent and any plans to achieve better compliance in the future.

The Postal Service claims that this Interrogatory is indecipherable. It really is very simple. The response to DBP/USPS-73 subpart f indicates that the percentage of non-compliance is presumed to be very low for the 12-hour drive time not being the criteria for the dividing line between 2- and 3-day delivery standards. If the 3-hour drive time / 1.5% of the mail volume is not the criteria as the dividing line between overnight and 2-day delivery standards in more than "a presumed very low percentage", then I would like a response as to the reason why it is not complied with to the same extent as the 12-hour drive time criteria and the plans to improve the compliance in the future.

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For the reasons stated, I move to compel responses to the referenced interrogatories since they are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

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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.

David B. Popkin      May 31, 2006

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