

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

DOCKET NO. R97-1

INTERROGATORY OF
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA
TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
(MPA/USPS-3)

(October 20, 1997)

Pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice, Magazine Publishers of America hereby submits the attached interrogatory to the USPS (MPA/USPS-3).

Respectfully submitted,


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**INTERROGATORY OF MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA
TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE**

MPA/USPS-3. Please refer to the Postal Service's response to MPA/USPS-2.

- a. Please confirm that on February 28, 1997, the Postal Service issued a Solicitation for Proposals for a "Data Quality Study" (Solicitation Number: 102590-97-A-0044).
- b. Please confirm that the February 28, 1997, Solicitation in Attachment I, page B-2, provides that one of the purposes of the Study is to address the following specific questions:

"7. Is the accuracy of IOCS estimates strongly affected by factors such as:

"-- shifts from manual and mechanized processing to automated mail processing?"

"-- growth in time associated with 'mixed mail,' 'nonproductive,' 'non-handling,' and 'overhead' observations?"

- c. Please confirm that the February 28, 1997, Solicitation in Attachment I, pages B-7-8 provides, with respect to the questions specified in paragraph 7., above, that:

"[T]he contractor will estimate the extent to which changes in the proportions of direct tallies (i.e., tallies observing employees handling mail) and indirect tallies affect the ability of the USPS to associate employee time with specific subclasses.

"Having thus determined quantitatively the increase in 'non-mail handling' activity, the contractor will (1) assess these costs, (2) comment on the USPS's ability to link these costs to classes of mail, and (3) identify any potential problems arising from that linkage and assess their impact."

- d. Has a contract for the Study been awarded? If yes, on what day was it awarded? If no, when will it be awarded?
- e. Is the Study underway?
- f. What is the delivery date for the completed Study?
- g. Have any interim progress reports been provided? If yes, please provide copies.
- h. Have any interim progress reports been requested? If yes, what are the due dates?

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the rules of practice.


James R. Cregan

Washington, D.C.
October 20, 1997