

DOCKET SECTION

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

RECEIVED
Nov 3 4 24 PM '97
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No. R97-1

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA
(MPA/USPS-3(a)-(f),(h))

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response to the following subparts of interrogatory MPA/USPS-3(a)-(f),(h), filed by the Magazine Publishers of America on October 20, 1997. An objection to interrogatory MPA/USPS-3(g) was filed on October 30, 1997.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking


Anne B. Reynolds

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-2970; Fax -5402
November 3, 1997

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA
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?

RESPONSE

- a. Confirmed.
- b. Confirmed.
- c. Confirmed.
- d. Yes.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA

- e. Yes.
- f. June 30, 1998.
- g. Objection filed, October 30, 1997.
- h. No.

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.


Anne B. Reynolds

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
November 3, 1997