

# DOCKET SECTION

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

OBJECTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS 4 AND 5 OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON  
(DFC/USPS-RA-4-5)  
(November 7, 1997)

The Postal Service hereby objects to the request for admissions DFC/USPS-RA-4-5, filed by Douglas F. Carlson on November 3, 1997.

Request for admission 4 asks the Postal Service to admit that:

If the Postal Service's proposed rates and fees for post cards and stamped cards are approved, to the extent that mailers can obtain private post cards for less than two cents, some mailers may use private post cards (at a rate of 21 cents) instead of stamped cards (at a total rate and fee of 23 cents).

Request for admission 5 asks the Postal Service to admit that:

The Postal Service's TY 1998 after-rates volume estimates for stamped cards does not include the decline in volume that may occur if mailers respond to the two-cent stamped-card fee by using private post cards instead of stamped cards.

These requests for admission are limited to issues that were the subject of testimony by witnesses Needham, O'Hara, and Tolley, concerning pricing and its impacts, including volume forecasts, for the stamped card special service and single piece cards. Discovery on the Postal Service's direct case, including discovery under section 27 of the Commission's Rules of Practice, ended on September 17, 1997.

These requests moreover are not proper as Special Rule 2E discovery because they concern issues that are addressed by the Postal Service's direct case. See Presiding

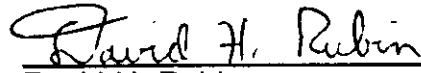
Officer's Ruling No. R87-1/138, at 4-5 (granting a motion to compel a response to an interrogatory "because it is limited to areas not addressed in the Postal Service's direct case").<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

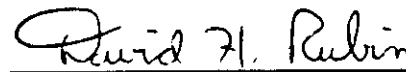
By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

  
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David H. Rubin

**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 H. Rubin

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Carlson did not direct any discovery to witnesses Needham, O'Hara, and Tolley concerning the subjects of these requests for admissions, so the witnesses may not have commented directly on those subjects. Nonetheless, the subjects of the requests for admission certainly are areas that these witnesses could have addressed during discovery or at the hearings.