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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006   Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-114)
(July 11, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its institutional

response to the above-listed interrogatory, filed on June 27, 2006.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID POPKIN**

DBP/USPS-114
With respect to the 4-state Customer Barcode:
[a] Please provide copies of any publications that relate to them.
[b] Please advise the types of mail that have 4-state barcodes affixed to them.
[c] Please describe the process of affixing 4-state barcodes to mailpieces.
[d] Please describe the data fields that are contained in a 4-state barcode.
[e] Please advise how a 4-state barcode may be manually decoded.
[f] Please advise how the use of 4-state barcodes will expedite the processing of mail.
[g] Please discuss and quantify any savings or added costs that result from the use of 4-state barcodes.
[h] What affect will the implementation of the 4-state barcodes have on the use of Postnet barcodes and/or the "orange" RBCS markings?

RESPONSE:

[a] USPS-B-3200 is 4-State Customer Barcode's specification document. It is available for download at http://ribbs.usps.gov/OneCodeSOLUTION/.
[b] 4-State Customer Barcode (4-CB) can be affixed to both letters and flats.
[c] 4-CB can be printed in the address block, in the barcode clear zone or above the address block by mailers.
[d] 4-CB consists of five fields: Barcode Identifier (2 digits), Service Type ID (3 digits), Customer Identifier (6 digits), Sequence Number (9 digits), and Delivery Point ZIP Code (none, 5, 9, or 11 digits). The first four fields are identified as Tracking Code, and the last field is identified as Routing Code.
[e] 4-CB can be decoded by using a barcode scanner or by entering the bar positions using the Online Encoder/Decoder tool located on the web site http://ribbs.usps.gov/OneCodeSOLUTION/.
[f] 4-CB's role is not to expedite processing of mail. 4-CB provides visibility into the mailstream. With visibility both mailers and US Postal Service can use this information to improve mail service.
[g] Savings can be realized by mailers from reducing the amount of mailpiece "real estate" taken up by coding requirements, leaving more that can be used for marketing messages. The Postal Service does not have estimates of the costs for software updates for encoding and printing 4-CB by mailers. The Postal Service provides encoding software and fonts at no cost to mailers at http://ribbs.usps.gov/OneCodeSOLUTION/.
[h] 4-CB will have no effect on the use of POSTNET barcodes or the ID Tag (orange RBCS markings) on letter mail.