

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS McCRERY
TO INTERROGATORY OF TIME WARNER, INC.
(TW/USPS-T42-40)
(August 7, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness McCrery to the above-mentioned interrogatory of Time Warner, Inc., filed on July 24, 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 TIME WARNER INC.

TW/USPS-T42-40 Your answer to TW/USPS-T42-36 and the two Postal Bulletin articles referred to in that answer indicate that the Postal Service is replacing almost all types of sacks currently in use with two new sack types, named EIRS 01VM and EIRS 03VM.

- a. Please confirm that the new sacks will be used both by postal customers, including Periodicals mailers, and at internal Postal Service operations such as sack racks.
- b. Will 01VM or 03VM normally be used by Periodicals mailers, or will both be used?
- c. Will either the 01VM or 03VM come in more than one color? If yes, which colors will be used?
- d. Will the ability to recognize sacks in postal facilities as containing Periodicals simply because they are brown continue to exist after the current stock has been replaced by 01VM and 03VM sacks? If yes, how?
- e. Will the ability to recognize Priority, Express Mail, First Class, etc. sacks simply from their color continue to exist in postal facilities after the current stock has been replaced by 01VM and 03VM sacks? If yes, how?
- f. Approximately what is the purchase price and expected number of times used before replacement for (1) the 01VM and (2) the 03VM?
- g. Sacks that break open and spill their contents, for example while on a BMC sack sorter, have been known as a problem in the past. Please describe any experience that the Postal Service may have to date regarding the ability of the Velcro closures on the 01VM and 03VM sacks to hold up during the types of rough handling sacks encounter in the postal system.
- h. Please confirm that Velcro closures generally will be subject to more stress when sacks are full and describe any experience regarding the volume that can safely be placed in each of the new sacks.

Response:

- a. Confirmed.
- b. Both may be used.
- c. No, the bags are translucent.

- d. No.
- e. No.
- f. The bags cost \$.55 and \$.75. There should be approximately 8 uses per bag before it needs to be replaced.
- g. There have been few reports of problems with the Velcro closures releasing. Problems may occur if a complete seal is not made by pressing the two sides of the fastener together firmly.
- h. Problems may occur if the bags are filled beyond the fill line established for each bag. They are designed to hold up to 70 pounds of mail.