

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2006-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 19
TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE; MAGAZINE
PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC. AND
ALLIANCE OF NONPROFIT MAILERS; AND
TIME WARNER INC.

(October 2, 2006)

The United States Postal Service; Magazine Publishers of America, Inc. and Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers; and Time Warner Inc. are requested to provide the information described below to assist in developing a record for the consideration of the Postal Service's request for changes in rates and fees. In order to facilitate inclusion of the required material in the evidentiary record, participants are to have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers and be prepared to explain to the extent necessary the basis for the answers at our hearing. Answers from the Post Service are to be provided by October 16, 2006. Answers from Magazine Publishers of America, Inc. and Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers; and Time Warner Inc. are to be provided by October 23, 2006.

In this proceeding Postal Service witness Tang, Time Warner witness Mitchell, and MPA-ANM witness Glick have made Outside County rate proposals. The Commission seeks to develop as complete a record as possible concerning each of these Outside County rate proposals.

During the August 10, 2006, hearing the Presiding Officer requested that witness Tang provide any additional information concerning small publications developed since the conclusion of Docket No. C2004-1.¹ On August 17, 2006, witness Tang responded

¹ Tr. 7/1883-87.

to the request by providing percentage increases resulting from her Outside County rate proposals for each of the 251 periodicals in her C2004-1 database.² On September 6, 2006, MPA-ANM filed MPA/ANM-LR-3, witness Tang's C2004-1 database, under protective conditions established in Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2006-1/51.³

On September 21, 2006, Time Warner requested that witness Tang update her C2004-1 database to include data since the inception of the 24-piece sack minimum and calculate the percentage changes resulting from her Outside County rate proposal using the updated information. In addition, Time Warner requested that witness Tang calculate the changes resulting from the Outside County rate proposals of witnesses Mitchell and Glick and provide a comparison of current rates, her proposed rates, and the rates proposed by Time Warner witness Mitchell and MPA-ANM witness Glick.⁴ The Postal Service objected to this interrogatory on September 26, 2006.⁵ The objection focused, in part, on the burden involved in developing a new, representative sample.

The Commission requests that the Postal Service provide, under the protective conditions established in Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2006-1/51, a version of MPA-ANM-LR-3 composed of data from as many of the same 251 publications as are currently mailing. This new data should reflect mailings sent after the 24-piece sack minimum became effective.⁶

The Commission further requests that the Postal Service provide a table comparing the percentage changes from current postage to its Outside County rate proposals based on these new, more recent mailings.

² Response of United States Postal Service Witness Tang to Question Posed by Chairman Omas at the August 10, 2006 Hearing, August 17, 2006.

³ Notice of Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers and Magazine Publishers of America, Inc., of Filing of Library Reference MPA/ANM-LR-3, Protected Material, September 6, 2006.

⁴ TW/USPS-T35-13.

⁵ Objection of the United States Postal Service to Interrogatories of Time Warner Inc. to Postal Service Witness Tang (TW/USPS-T35-11-13), September 26, 2006.

⁶ If more recent data for any of the 251 publications is not available, the Postal Service may substitute data for a similar publication.

After the Postal Service provides more recent data on the 251 publications, the Commission requests that Time Warner and MPA-ANM provide calculations of the percentage changes of their respective proposals on the 251 publications using these more recent data.

George Omas
Presiding Officer