

ORDER NO. 49

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Dan G. Blair, Chairman;
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;
Ruth Y. Goldway; and
Tony L. Hammond

Service Performance Measurement
Systems for Market Dominant Products

Docket No. PI2008-1

ORDER MODIFYING THE DUE DATES FOR COMMENTS

(Issued December 11, 2007)

The Association of Postal Commerce (PostCom) requests that the Commission extend the due dates for comments and reply comments regarding the Postal Service's proposed service performance measurement systems.¹ Order No. 48, issued December 4, 2007, established January 7, 2008 as the date for comments, with reply comments due two weeks later. PostCom requests that the initial comments be due no later than 40 days after publication of Order No. 48 in the *Federal Register* and that reply comments be due no later than 14 days after the initial comments are due. *Id.* at 1.

In support, PostCom suggests that the initial comment period of slightly more than 30 days may be inadequate to address the Postal Service's "voluminous service

¹See Letter to the Postal Regulatory Commission re Comment Deadline in Docket No. PI2008-1, December 7, 2007 (Letter).

performance measurement proposal” because the schedule overlaps two major National holidays. *Id.* Moreover, PostCom notes that some interested persons may not be aware of the docket until publication in the *Federal Register*, which has not yet occurred. PostCom also contends that no party will be prejudiced by the proposed extension of the comment period. *Id.*

The Commission does not control when its orders and notices are published by the *Federal Register*.² Thus, in this instance, tying the comment schedule to that event may complicate consultations between the Commission and the Postal Service required under the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, Pub. L. 109-435, title III, §§ 301 and 302, 120 stat. 3218 and 3219, and delay implementation of the service performance measurement systems. The Postal Service’s proposal has been available on the Commission’s website since December 4, 2007. Moreover, the proposal is not unknown to interested mailers and other groups. Beginning earlier this year, in a series of meetings with workgroups of the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee and separate meetings with employee and management groups concerning the development of modern service standards, the Postal Service discussed proposed service performance measurement systems. In sum, the revised comment period will provide all interested persons ample time to review and comment on the Postal Service’s proposal.

In lieu of tying the comment period to publication of Order No. 48 in the *Federal Register*, the Commission will revise the due dates for comments as follows: Initial comments are due no later than January 18, 2008; reply comments are due no later than February 1, 2008. This extension will afford interested persons ample opportunity to address the Postal Service’s service performance measurement proposal substantively.

It is ordered:

² Although it need not have done so, the Commission directed its Secretary to have its order and the Postal Service’s proposal published in the *Federal Register* to provide broad notice of its public inquiry.

1. The comment period established in Order No. 48 is revised as follows: Initial comments are due no later than January 18, 2008. Reply comments are due no later than February 1, 2008.
2. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of these dates in the *Federal Register*.

By the Commission.

Steven W. Williams
Secretary