

**ORIGINAL**

ORDER NO. 1218

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

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Before Commissioners: Edward J. Gleiman, Chairman;  
George W. Haley, Vice Chairman;  
Ruth Y. Goldway; W.H. "Trey" LeBlanc III  
George A. Omas

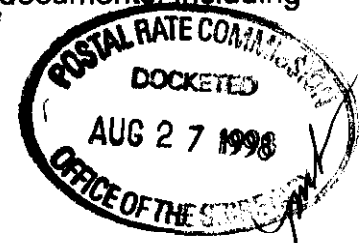
General Review of the Rules of Practice

Docket No. RM98-3

**REQUEST FOR SUGGESTIONS  
ON IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMMISSION'S RULES OF PRACTICE**

(August 27, 1998)

Following each major proceeding, the Commission reviews the effectiveness of its rules of practice (primarily those set out in 39 CFR 3001.1-92) and invites participants to offer suggestions for changes or improvements. The Commission's initial assessment of the operation of its rules in the recently-completed omnibus rate and classification case (Docket No. R97-1) leads to several preliminary conclusions. First, it appears that two recently-adopted revisions — addressing the use of surveys and the Service's filing of "pro forma" financial data and information — worked reasonably well. Second, it appears that consideration should be given to incorporating all (or most) of the special rules of practice into the general, or standing, rules. Third, an assessment of ways to reduce the costs inherent in service of documents, including



consideration of the extent to which electronic filing requirements (or options) can be added should be undertaken.

A serious evidentiary dispute over library references indicates that clarification of this longstanding practice is essential. However, the Commission intends to address this matter, as well as the need for changes in its rules on confidential information, in separate rulemakings. Thus, commenters are requested not to address these topics in response to this rulemaking.

It is ordered:

1. Interested persons are invited to submit comments and suggestions on potential improvements in the Commission's rules of practice no later than October 28, 1998.

2. The Secretary shall arrange for notice of this request to be published in the Federal Register.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)



Margaret P. Crenshaw,

*Secretary*