

ORIGINAL

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

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MAILING ONLINE SERVICE

Docket No. MC98-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
(OCA/USPS-7-9)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-7-9, filed on November 16, 1998.

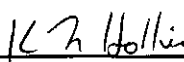
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

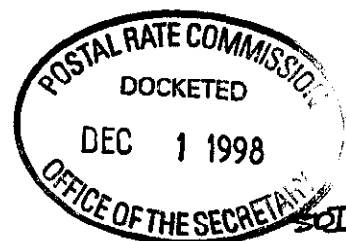
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth N. Hollies

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-3083; Fax -5402  
December 1, 1998



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OCA/USPS-7. Please provide volume estimates for the 1999-2003 time period based upon the rates and premailing fees in effect during the market test.

RESPONSE:

These estimates do not exist.

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OCA/USPS-8. Please provide volume estimates for the 1999-2003 time period based upon the rates and premailing fees expected to be in effect during the experimental phase.

RESPONSE:

These estimates do not exist.

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OCA/USPS-9. The OCA has received what appears to be a First-Class MOL piece postmarked in red, by hand, November 9, Waltham, MA. However, the design of the envelope does not match any of those included in Attachment II of the contract for printing services.

- a. Are MOL pieces being postmarked in red? If so, who applies the postmark?
- b. Are MOL pieces being postmarked by hand? If so, how is this practice consistent with the goal of maximizing the automation compatibility of MOL pieces?
- c. Why is the Postal Service using an envelope design for First-Class Mail that is not authorized by the contract with the printer and that creates the appearance of Standard (A)?

RESPONSE:

- a-b. The red round date stamp applied to the MOL piece received by the OCA was likely applied by a mail acceptance clerk in Waltham, Massachusetts. Hand stamping, while not the method of choice for a mature Mailing Online, is not surprising as volume begins to trickle from what is planned to be a high-volume pipe. Procedures have yet to be standardized and such date stamping is not unusual in this context. Postmarking was performed by hand in this instance to ensure proper handling by mail processing personnel unfamiliar with Mailing Online's recent authorization to submit permit imprint mailings of less than 200 pieces. The date stamp does not impair in any way the automation compatibility of MOL pieces and is unlikely to be deemed necessary by mail acceptance personnel for long.
- c. The Mailing Online envelope design was revised subsequent to the release of the printer contract and therefore does not exactly match the example provided therein. The current First-Class Mail MOL envelope

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clearly indicates that it is not Standard (A) by the inclusion of a permit  
imprint which reads: "First Class Mail".

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

K N Hollies  
Kenneth N. Hollies

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