

ORIGINAL

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAILING ONLINE SERVICE

Docket No. MC98-1

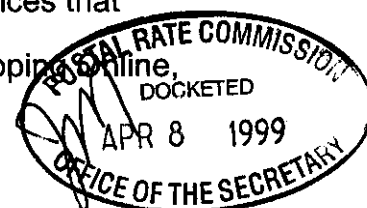
MOTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO SUSPEND THE PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
(April 8, 1999)

The United States Postal Service hereby moves for suspension of the procedural schedule in PRC Docket No. MC98-1, for the reasons set forth below.

In PRC Order No. 1234 (March 19, 1999), the Commission directed the Postal Service to take various measures to inform participants regarding costs associated with PostOffice Online, the channel through which online access to various postal products and services—including Mailing Online—is provided. The Postal Service responded affirmatively, by providing additional information to participants and the Commission, and by conducting the first of two required technical conferences. The second technical conference, which had been scheduled to occur today, Thursday, April 8, 1999, was canceled by means of a formal notice filed on April 7.

Further efforts to provide information regarding PostOffice Online have been rendered moot by recent decisions within the Postal Service. First, PostOffice Online was denied an exemption from the Y2K moratorium on changes to postal computer systems. This led to a decision to cancel further development of the PostOffice Online channel—but not Mailing Online service.

The evidence and information presented by the Postal Service in Docket No. MC98-1, including costs that may be attributable to Mailing Online, reflected an expectation that PostOffice Online would be the channel for offering services that required payment of postage or other fees, including Mailing Online, Shipping Online,



and other services that have been the subject of witness Garvey's testimony. In place of PostOffice Online, it is expected at this time that www.usps.com will become the exclusive channel for access to postal information, products, and services. The elimination of PostOffice Online renders incorrect or moot some of the evidence regarding information systems costs presented by the Postal Service in this docket.

The Postal Service remains committed to Mailing Online as a strategically important initiative that should continue to move forward as rapidly as possible. It intends to continue to conduct the market test and to collect and report data in accordance with the Commission's Opinion on the Market Test. The Postal Service also maintains the desire that a nationwide experiment can be commenced following the market test. At this point, further consideration of the Postal Service's plans for future actions in this docket needs to be undertaken by senior Postal Service management, including likely consideration by the Board of Governors.

The Postal Service is acutely aware that ten months from the date of filing the Request initiating this proceeding (July 15, 1998) will end next month. In this regard, the Postal Service seeks to clarify any questions concerning the status of its proposals in this docket as soon as possible. For now, the most prudent course seems to be to request suspension of the procedural schedule pending resolution of the matter within the Postal Service.

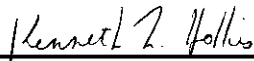
Counsel for the Postal Service has advised counsel for MASA, Pitney Bowes, and the OCA of its intended filing of this motion and has been authorized to state on their behalf that they have no objection to its being granted.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Kenneth N. Hollies

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.



Kenneth N. Hollies

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-3083; Fax -5402
April 8, 1999