

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

Before Commissioners:

Edward J. Gleiman, Chairman;
W.H. "Trey" LeBlanc III, Vice Chairman;
Dana B. Covington, Sr.; Ruth Y. Goldway;
and George A. Omas

Renewal of Experimental Classification and
Fees for Weight-Averaged Nonletter-Size
Business Reply Mail

Docket No. MC99-1

ORDER ON POSTAL SERVICE'S REQUEST
FOR APPLICATION OF EXPERIMENTAL RULES

(Issued April 9, 1999)

In its Docket No. MC99-1 request, the Postal Service expressed its interest in proceeding with this case under Commission rules 67-67d, which facilitate expeditious treatment of requests involving experimental changes. (39 CFR § 3001.67-67d).

Docket No. MC99-1 Request at 1.¹

Order No. 1233 noted the Service's suggestion that it would be appropriate to apply the experimental rules in this case, expressed the Commission's view that this suggestion appeared to have merit, and directed participants wishing to address the matter to file comments by April 5, 1999.

Participants addressing this question agree that this case satisfies the conditions for application of the experimental rules. See 1999 District Photo Inc. (District), York Photo Labs (York), Mystic Color Lab (Mystic) and Seattle FilmWorks, Inc. (Seattle) Comments in Support of Postal Service Request to Consider Proposed Classification

¹ These rules also require that parties file statements of issues following a determination that a case qualifies for experimental procedures. Given that active settlement negotiations are underway, participants need not file statements at this time.

and Rate Changes under Rules 67-67d (April 5, 1999), Office of the Consumer Advocate Comments in Response to Order No. 1233 at 3-4 (April 5, 1999).

In determining whether experimental procedures may be used in a particular case, rule 67b requires the Commission to consider the proposal's novelty and magnitude, including its effect on postal costs and revenues, mailing costs and practices, and competitors. Rule 67b(1) and (2). The Commission must also consider the ease or difficulty of generating data and the duration of the experiment. Rule 67b(3) and (4).

This case entails a request to extend one feature of an experiment approved in Docket No. MC97-1. The Commission's finding that the original proceeding satisfied the rule 67 criteria holds for this phase as well with respect to the novelty of the accounting alternative being tested and its modest effect on postal costs and revenues. Data generation issues appear to have been resolved, but to the extent they remain, will be the subject of further review during the extension. No undue impact on users of the mails or competitors is anticipated. Finally, the requested extension is reasonably short, terminating either on February 29, 2000 or upon implementation of permanent rates, whichever occurs first. Accordingly, the Commission finds that application of the experimental rules is appropriate in this case.

IT IS ORDERED:

Docket No. MC99-1 will proceed under Commission rules 67-67d.

By the Commission.

(SEAL)

Margaret P. Crenshaw,
Secretary