

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

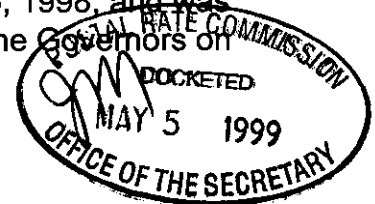
NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF
WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST FOR A RECOMMENDED DECISION
AND MOTION TO CLOSE DOCKET
(May 5, 1999)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides notice that, as authorized by the Board of Governors,¹ it is withdrawing its request for a recommended decision on experimental Mailing Online service, which was filed by the Postal Service on July 15, 1998. The Postal Service accordingly moves that the Commission close Docket No. MC98-1, under which it is currently considering that request. The Mailing Online market test remains in effect.²

As we indicated in our Motion to Suspend the Procedural Schedule on April 8, the Postal Service has determined to consolidate its internet presence within one website, USPS.com, in order to avoid unnecessary redundancies and costs, and to manage efficiently the issue of year 2000 compatibility. This decision is one of good business practice that is consistent with the practices of other firms engaged in internet transactions. Implementation of the changes needed to effect the transfer of MOL to USPS.com is ongoing.

¹ Resolution No. 99-5 of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service (May 3, 1999). A signed copy is attached as Exhibit 1.

² The market test was also requested by the Postal Service on July 15, 1998, and was recommended by the Commission on October 7, 1998, approved by the Governors on October 16, 1998, and became operational on October 30, 1998.



The evidence presented to support the Postal Service's proposal in this docket was based on the use of the PostOffice Online website, rather than USPS.com, as the platform for Mailing Online. In light of the implications of the change to USPS.com for the Postal Service's proposal and the evidentiary record supporting it, the Postal Service has concluded that the least complicated course of action is to withdraw its request.

The Postal Service yet hopes to file a new request, reformulated and supplemented as necessary to accommodate the change in its operational plans. The Postal Service recognizes and appreciates the Commission's efforts to be flexible in the face of technological challenge in this proceeding, and looks forward to similar approaches in future proceedings. A new request for Mailing Online would include an updated explanation of the system's operation and revisions of certain estimated information systems costs in order to present an accurate picture of the Mailing Online service. The Postal Service would seek to incorporate into the record of the new docket large parts of the record in the instant docket that would remain relevant. Such incorporation could permit an expedited resolution of the new request.

As we indicated in our motion to suspend the procedural schedule, the Postal Service intends to continue conducting the current market test through October 30, 1999,³ and to collect and report data in accordance with the Commission's Opinion and Recommended Decision on Market Test (October 7, 1998). This information would then be available for incorporation into a future proceeding.⁴

³ This is one year after the market test began and is consistent with the period contemplated by the Commission's rules for market tests. 39 C.F.R. § 3001.161(a).

⁴ The specific rules on which any new request would be based is a subject of current
(continued...)

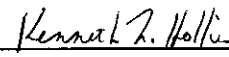
Accordingly, the Postal Service withdraws its request for a Mailing Online experiment and moves that this docket be closed.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

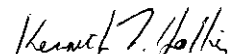
Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



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

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May 5, 1999

⁴ (...continued)

consideration by postal management. If reasonable and appropriate, and presuming Board and Commission concurrence, postal management would strongly prefer to avoid any interruption of service for customers.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Resolution No. 99-5

Withdrawal of Request of the United States Postal Service
for a Recommended Decision on Mailing Online Experiment

RESOLVED:

The Board of Governors hereby authorizes the Postal Service to withdraw, as soon as feasible, the request for a recommended decision on experimental Mailing Online service, filed with the Postal Rate Commission on July 15, 1998.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Governors on May 3, 1999.


Secretary

EXHIBIT 2-1---