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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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

Mailing Online Service

Docket No. MC98-1

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST
BY UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND
ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO CLOSE DOCKET

(May 12, 1999)

On May 5, 1999, the United States Postal Service filed a pleading announcing the withdrawal of its request in this proceeding and moving that the Commission close this docket. Notice of United States Postal Service of Withdrawal of Request for a Recommended Decision and Motion to Close Docket (Postal Service Motion), May 5, 1999. In its pleading, the Postal Service states that it intends to consolidate its internet presence within one website, USPS.com, rather than using the PostOffice Online website as a platform for certain internet services such as Mailing Online, as was originally proposed by the Service in this docket. *Id.* at 1-2. According to the Service, the consolidation will enable it to avoid unnecessary redundancies and costs, and to manage efficiently the issue of year 2000 compatibility. *Id.* at 1. The consolidation further is touted as a sound business decision in accordance with the practice of other firms engaged in internet transactions. *Ibid.*



The Postal Service states that it hopes to file a new, reformulated and supplemented request for its Mailing Online Service at some unspecified point in the future. *Id.* at 2. As Mailing Online's platform would be the consolidated USPS.com website, rather than the currently proposed PostOffice Online, an updated explanation of the system's operation and revisions of certain estimated information systems costs would be necessary. *Ibid.* In light of these modifications, the Service has concluded that the least complicated course of action is to withdraw its request.¹

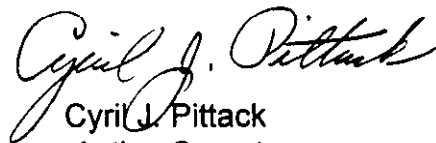
No participant has opposed the Postal Service's motion to terminate this docket. In light of the nature of this docket — a proposal for an experimental service by the Postal Service — the Commission does not believe that terminating proceedings at this time will result in prejudice to the due process rights of any participant. Accordingly, the Commission shall grant the Postal Service's motion to terminate this proceeding.

It is ordered:

1. The Motion of the United States Postal Service to Close Docket No. MC98-1 is granted.
2. The Secretary shall cause this Notice and Order to be published in the *Federal Register*.

By the Commission.

(S E A L)


Cyril J. Pittack
Acting Secretary

¹ In its motion to close the docket, the Postal Service states that it would seek to incorporate into the record of the new docket substantial, relevant parts of the record in the instant docket in order to allow for an expedited resolution of the new request. Postal Service Motion at 2.