

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Office of the
Consumer Advocate

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 14, 1999

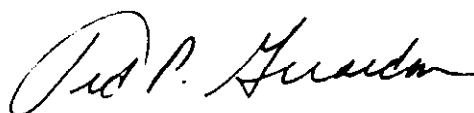
TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD IN DOCKET NO. R97-1:

The Office of the Consumer Advocate at the Postal Rate Commission is charged with representing the interests of the general public in cases before the Commission. In doing so, OCA observes a careful separation from the Commission and its decisional personnel, as required by Section 7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (39 CFR § 3001.7).

As a litigant before the Commission, OCA is often in contact with other litigants over substantive issues in pending cases. One such means of contact is through fax transmissions, which OCA has been sending and receiving through the Commission's Administrative Office. The chances of any substantive matter in a fax to or from OCA coming to the attention of decisional personnel is extremely remote. Nonetheless, because the separation of OCA from the rest of the Commission on substantive matters during a proceeding is taken very seriously (both by the members of OCA and by all other employees of the Commission), OCA now has a fax machine located in its offices, and no longer needs to utilize the fax machine in the Administrative Office.

The new number for OCA's fax machine is 202-789-6819. I request that you use this number for any transmissions of material to OCA, and that you make a note of this new number in all records you maintain on contacts with the Commission.

Very truly yours,



Ted P. Gerarden
Director