

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSES OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS McCRERY
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE GREETING CARD ASSOCIATION
[GCA/USPS-T42-4-6]
(June 23, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of Postal Service witness Marc D. McCrery to the above-listed interrogatories of the Greeting Card Association, filed on June 9, 2006. Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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GCA/USPS-T42-4:

Please refer to your response to GCA/USPS-T42-1(b)(i), in which you refer to certain facilities at which pieces rejected by the AFCS are manually faced and cancelled and directed to a MLOCR/DIOSS for automated processing.

(a) Please provide the volume of single-piece First-Class Letters that are manually faced and cancelled and directed to a MLOCR/DIOSS, as described in your response.

(b) Does the Postal Service intend either to maintain or to expand its use of this method of processing First-Class Letters rejected by the AFCS?

RESPONSE:

a. The volume of single piece First-Class letters rejected off the AFCS and directed to a MLOCR/DIOSS can not be determined as machine rejects can be re-fed into the system for another attempt at processing. Moreover, the manually faced and cancelled volume is commingled with rejects from the Dual Pass Rough Cull (DPRC) system and other rejects that are identified as 'Hand Cancel Only' volume. However, the volume of mail cancelled by hand or on another more tolerant piece of canceling equipment is provided in response to interrogatory VP/USPS-T42-7.

b. Yes.

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GCA/USPS-T42-5:

Please describe the markings, applied by the Postal Service, which would be found on a stamped single-piece First-Class Letter at the time it is received by the addressee –

- (a) When the piece has been successfully processed on the AFCS;
- (b) When the piece has not been successfully processed on the AFCS and has been directed to a manual unit for processing; and
- (c) When the piece has not been successfully processed on the AFCS and has been directed to a MLOCR/DIOSS for processing.

RESPONSE:

- a. The new postmark, cancellation bars, an ID tag, and/or a POSTNET barcode (if not pre-barcoded). Refer to GCA/USPS-T42-6 for details on the new postmark.
- b. The postmark and possibly cancellation bars.
- c. The postmark, and possibly cancellation bars, an ID tag and/or a POSTNET barcode (if not pre-barcoded).

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GCA/USPS-T42-6:

Please describe the differences (if any), which would be discernible by visual inspection, between a cancellation applied manually to a stamped single-piece First-Class Letter and a cancellation applied to such a piece by the AFCS.

RESPONSE:

The Ink-Jet Canceller on the AFCS uses inkjet printing technology to apply a cancellation mark on each mail piece by spraying tiny ink droplets at high velocity under computer control. The new postmark includes the following information:

- City, state, and the 3-digit ZIP with a single space between each item but no comma between the city and state.
- Date in day, month, year (DD MMM YY) with a single space in between.
- Time in hours, minutes (HH:MM) using military time or PM designation.
- AFCS machine identification.
- Lead (L) or Trail (T) cancellation identification.
- Cancellation wavy bars to the right of all the above.

The manual canceller is a round rubber stamp with the city, state, 3-digit ZIP, and date. The manual letter and flat outgoing primary operations are also equipped with a dauber for canceling stamps.