

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN  
(DBP/USPS-105-109)  
(July 10, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its institutional responses to the above-listed interrogatories, filed on June 26, 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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RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
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**DBP/USPS-105**

[a] With respect to the conversion of the cancellation of letter mail to ink jet sprayed cancellations from the round cancellations, has the conversion been completed at all locations?

[b] If not, please advise the facilities that are still awaiting conversion and the schedule for their implementation.

[c] Please advise those processing facilities, if any, that will not be making the conversion.

**Response:**

[a] The deployment of the Ink Jet Canceller System has been completed.

[b] N/A

[c] All AFCS machines at all facilities are to be converted. Other canceling equipment (e.g., Micro-marks and other small cancellers) will not be converted.

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**DBP/USPS-106**

[a] With respect to the ink jet sprayed cancellation of letter mail, please advise if the time is shown as AM or PM or a specific numerical time is shown.

[b] If specific numerical times are shown, please discuss the conditions under which that is implemented.

[c] Are the date and time automatically set from a master clock or must they be manually set by an operator. Please discuss.

[d] May the date and time be set to any date and time that is desired by an operator [i.e. the actual date and time may be manually overridden]? Please discuss.

**Response:**

[a] The time is shown as AM or PM.

[b] N/A

[c] The date and time are set when the Ink Jet Canceller System is first installed and then it updates automatically.

[d] No, the machine operator can not change the date or time. The date and time can only be changed by maintenance personnel.

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**DBP/USPS-107**

- [a] With respect to the ink jet sprayed cancellation of letter mail, please discuss why they were implemented.
- [b] Please discuss and provide details whether the use of this type of cancellation has or does not have an effect on the processing speed or other mail processing activities.
- [c] Please discuss and provide details whether the use of this type of cancellation has or does not have an effect on the costs of mail processing.

**Response:**

- [a] They were implemented to reduce maintenance and spare parts costs.
- [b] The Ink Jet Cancellor does not affect processing speed or other mail processing activities.
- [c] The use of Ink Jet Cancellor does not affect the cost of mail processing.

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**DBP/USPS-108**

[a] With respect to the ink jet sprayed cancellation of letter mail, please advise why some facilities have 4 wavy cancellation bars and some have 6 wavy cancellation bars.

[b] Please discuss whether there is a plan to convert all of the processing facilities to one or the other or is the choice of 4 or 6 bars up to the individual processing facility?

**Response:**

[a] After deployment of the Ink Jet Canceller started, a defect in the print engine was discovered. Printing by the center of the print engine was disabled as a temporary work around for that defect. That required changing from six wavy lines to four wavy lines.

[b] The manufacturer of the Ink Jet Canceller has corrected the defect in the original print engines. A retrofit is in process to replace the original print engines with updated print engines and will be completed before the end of the year. When a processing facility receives updated print engines, it will switch back to the six wavy lines.

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**DBP/USPS-109**

With respect to the ink jet sprayed cancellation of letter mail, please advise the reaction of mailers to this type of cancellation and whether there is any discussion to return to the "old style" circular type of cancellation.

**Response:**

In order to be able to react to any particular change in operations, customers would need to notice it. It would appear that the vast majority of customers do not pay close enough attention to this aspect of their mail to even recognize that any change in the type of cancellation has taken place, much less have any positive or negative reaction to it. There is no discussion to return to the old style of cancellation.