

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

CONFIRM

Docket No. MC2002-1

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REQUEST FOR EXPEDITION
(April 24, 2002)

The Postal Service believes that mailers will benefit from the earliest possible resolution of the effective date of the proposed classification and fee changes for Confirm. In this regard, the Postal Service fully appreciates the time demands imposed by the Commission's responsibilities under the Act, and acknowledges the Commission's substantial prerogatives in controlling the course of its classification proceedings. We further emphasize that we would not advocate any schedule that would have the practical effect of denying the Postal Service or any other participant the opportunity to be heard under the requirements of due process. Most importantly, we would not seek to limit the Commission's effectiveness in carrying out its important functions by depriving it of time needed to fully evaluate the record and formulate its recommendations.

Nevertheless, we note that, under the Act, as amended, no minimum duration is established in a Commission proceeding conducted pursuant to 39 U.S.C. § 3623, and a 10-month outer limit applies to proceedings involving requests for establishment of rates and fees. While, in some prior classification cases, the Commission has found it necessary to utilize the maximum ten months specified in the Act for proposals having rate change implications, there have been exceptions.¹ The Postal Service believes,

¹ Most recently, in Docket No. MC2001-1, which lasted approximately 2 ½ months.

furthermore, that significant potential exists for streamlining these proceedings, consistent with due process and the need to explore fully the Postal Service's proposals. Finally, the Postal Service is optimistic that the prospects for settling in this case might be good.

An early Recommended Decision would facilitate an orderly transition to the new classification and associated fees. Confirm is a service that has the potential of providing both the mailing community and the Postal Service with critical mail tracking and performance information. For many potential users of Confirm an internal commitment to building the infrastructure that will maximize their return on investment awaits a demonstration, by means of implementing a permanent Confirm service, that the Postal Service is itself fully committed to the service. Quick implementation will encourage industry adoption of Confirm, ensure widespread utilization of the system's data and hasten the arrival of information that will increase the Postal Service's knowledge of its own operations. Accordingly, the Postal Service requests that all due consideration be given to taking measures that would expedite proceedings and lead to an early Recommended Decision.

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Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorney:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
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Joseph K. Moore

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.

Joseph K. Moore

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