

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Evolutionary Network Development
Service Changes

Docket No. N2006-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING REQUIRING THE
POSTAL SERVICE TO PROVIDE A SECOND STATUS REPORT

(Issued June 16, 2006)

The original deadline for the close of the discovery period in this docket was May 22, 2006. APWU sought an extension of that deadline, in part because the Postal Service had answered so many interrogatories late, and many other answers that were due were still outstanding. Consequently, I found it necessary to issue Presiding Officer's Ruling No. N2006-1/12. That ruling required the Postal Service to provide a status report on its discovery responses that were still outstanding. The purpose of the status report was to help me determine the extent to which the deadline for filing initial discovery should be extended in order to accommodate the rights of APWU and others to review anticipated Postal Service responses and make use of them in preparing their direct case in this docket.

On May 25, 2006, the Postal Service provided the status report requested. In its report, the Postal Service promised to respond to most of the discovery responses that were still outstanding by June 5, 2006. Based on that report, Presiding Officer's Ruling No. N2006-1/14 extended the deadline for filing initial discovery from May 22 to June 16, 2006, which necessitated a rescheduling of oral cross-examination to July 18 and 19, 2006.

A significant number of the responses promised by June 5, however, have still not been provided, including responses to parts of POIR No. 4. In addition, a

substantial number of discovery responses not listed on the Postal Service's status report are also overdue, including responses to parts of POIR No. 2. Some of the questions that the Postal Service has not yet answered could be fairly characterized as fundamental to an understanding of its network realignment process. The Postal Service is directed to provide a second status report no later than June 21, 2006, that indicates when it expects to file its responses to outstanding discovery.

RULING

The Postal Service is directed to submit a second status report no later than June 21, 2006, indicating its expected filing dates for its responses to all outstanding discovery requests that are not subject to an objection or a motion to compel.

Dawn A. Tisdale
Presiding Officer