

**BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001**

**Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2006**

**Docket No. R2006-1**

**DOUGLAS F. CARLSON  
INTERROGATORIES TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS ALTAF F. TAUFIQUE (DFC/USPS-T48-1-20)**

**July 17, 2006**

Pursuant to sections 25–27 of the *Rules of Practice*, I hereby submit interrogatories to United States Postal Service witness Altaf F. Taufique.

The instructions accompanying DFC/USPS-T34-1–4 are incorporated herein by reference.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 17, 2006

DOUGLAS F. CARLSON

**DFC/USPS-T48-1.** Will a “Forever Stamp” be valid for postage at the prevailing rate for one-ounce First-Class letters on pieces of mail that require more postage than a one-ounce letter? For example, if the prevailing rate for one-ounce letters is 45 cents, and if a piece of mail requires 80 cents postage, will a mailer be permitted to use one “Forever Stamp” plus additional stamps totalling 35 cents?

**DFC/USPS-T48-2.** Please describe the origin of the name “Forever Stamp,” and please provide other names that the Postal Service rejected.

**DFC/USPS-T48-3.** Did the Postal Service test the name “Forever Stamp” with the public to gauge recognition and understanding of this name?

**DFC/USPS-T48-4.** Please discuss the extent to which the Postal Service expects the “Forever Stamp” to become the “workhorse” postage stamp for one-ounce letters that most customers will purchase and use on their mail, regardless of whether a postage-rate increase is imminent.

**DFC/USPS-T48-5.** Please discuss how often the Postal Service expects to issue new designs of a “Forever Stamp” (e.g., more than once per rate cycle, only when the rates change, never, etc.).

**DFC/USPS-T48-6.** Please provide the text and numerals that will be printed on a “Forever Stamp.”

**DFC/USPS-T48-7.** Please discuss the extent to which foreign postal administrations will accept a “Forever Stamp” as evidence of postage payment.

**DFC/USPS-T48-8.** Please confirm that the Postal Service did not discuss any aspects of the “Forever Stamp” proposal with any individual postal customers who regularly participate in proceedings at the Postal Rate Commission representing themselves.

**DFC/USPS-T48-9.** Aside from the telephone market research described in your testimony, please discuss the extent to which the Postal Service discussed the proposed “Forever Stamp” with members of the public in their capacity as individuals, not as employees of an organization with whom the Postal Service wished to communicate.

**DFC/USPS-T48-10.** Why does the Postal Service believe that a “Forever Stamp” is preferable to the idea described in your testimony at pages 8–9 to provide customers with 10 free postage stamps prior to each rate increase?

**DFC/USPS-T48-11.** Please provide the average number of letters that an individual American postal customer mails each month, the average number of letters that a United Kingdom postal customer mails each month, and the average number of letters that a French postal customer mails each month.

**DFC/USPS-T48-12.** Please explain why the Postal Service proposes to begin selling the “Forever Stamp” at the new rate, currently proposed to be 42 cents, prior to the implementation of the 42-cent rate.

**DFC/USPS-T48-13.** Please explain why customers would benefit from sales of the “Forever Stamp” prior to the implementation of the proposed 42-cent postage rate more than they would benefit from sales of a regular, denominated or non-

denominated, 42-cent stamp prior to the implementation of the proposed 42-cent rate.

**DFC/USPS-T48-14.** Suppose the Commission does not recommend approval of the “Forever Stamp” soon enough to permit the Postal Service to implement the “Forever Stamp” before the proposed 42-cent rate takes effect. Please explain why this delay would be undesirable for postal customers.

**DFC/USPS-T48-15.** Please refer to your testimony at page 18, line 5. Why does the proposed Schedule 221 note use the word “price”?

**DFC/USPS-T48-16.** Please refer to your testimony at page 17, lines 9–11. Please define “prevailing rate.”

**DFC/USPS-T48-17.** Please explain how the plan described at page 19, fn. 12 to sell “Forever Stamps” at 42 cents prior to implementation of the 42-cent rate would be consistent with proposed DMCS section 241.

**DFC/USPS-T48-18.** Does the Postal Service envision a future in which many stamp designs, and perhaps even commemorative stamps, will be issued as “Forever Stamps”?

**DFC/USPS-T48-19.** If the “Forever Stamp” proposal is implemented, does the Postal Service expect that most customers will purchase the “Forever Stamp” instead of other postage stamps? If not, why would customers have an incentive not to purchase “Forever Stamps”?

**DFC/USPS-T48-20.** Suppose the “Forever Stamp” is implemented. When customers visit a retail window clerk and ask for a “book of 20 stamps,” will the Postal Service typically sell “Forever Stamps” to these customers, perhaps without further discussion or questioning?