

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001

Docket No. R2001-1

REPORT OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
ON STATUS OF RESPONSE TO PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION
REQUEST No.4, QUESTION 4
(November 29, 2001)

Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 4, Question 4 (POIR4-4) was issued on November 6, 2001; it requested replies in ten days. POIR4-4 inquires regarding counter-intuitive information in USPS-LR-J-137 which suggests that First-Class letters' average days to delivery decreases as distance traveled increases.

No operational reason for this apparently anomalous result has been identified and the general expectation is that a coding error is causing it. An initial analysis of the computer code used to generate the information similarly failed to identify any explanation. Accordingly, the Postal Service is undertaking a more detailed analysis of pertinent COBOL code, which was written in 1969. This effort, which has just begun, is expected to take two analysts, one at Headquarters and one at a data center, at least two weeks to finish. When additional information is obtained, it will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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Kenneth N. Hollies

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.

Kenneth N. Hollies

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