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

JUL 24 4 32 PM '96

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SPECIAL SERVICES REFORM, 1996

Docket No. MC96-3

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
CONCERNING ISSUES RAISED AT TECHNICAL CONFERENCE  
(July 24, 1996)

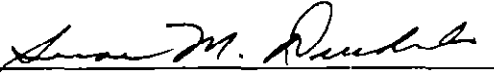
The United States Postal Service hereby provides information concerning issues raised at the technical conference held on Wednesday, July 17, 1996. Those issues relate to quarterly file processing and record count differences in the carrier cost system data tapes.

Respectfully submitted,

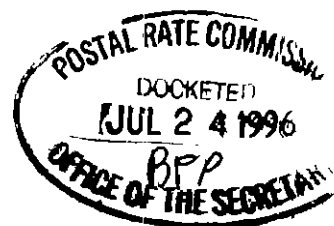
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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July 24, 1996



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### Quarterly File Processing

The quarterly files are created with an additional pay period file included. The additional pay period file is included so that delinquent tests are counted within the quarter they were taken **(delinquent tests are tests that are taken within one pay period, but are received during the next pay period)**. The additional pay period file that is included is searched for data that should be counted within the processing quarter, all other data are dropped. This process is necessary because the delinquent data are included in the annual file, built directly from pay period data. In this way, the sum of the quarterly data will equal to the annual data. These files are included in LR-SSR-36 on tape. Also see LR-SSR-35 for a listing of the output data.

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**RECORD COUNT DIFFERENCES**

In April 1996, the distribution key process was run using the four 1995 quarterly data files. The program read in the four quarterly files which added up to 295,204 records. The data then went through a duplication process which detected 36,025 duplicates. There were 259,179 records left. After going through various types of sorts, merges, and weight assignment routines the data remained intact. At this point there is a check within the program, for records with no weight assignment and no stop type. If a record did not meet this requirement it was deleted. The record count after this process was completed was 257,801. This count was the number of records processed.

After filing the base year data, a problem was detected within the data. After investigating the problem, it was determined that some of the edit programs that relate to this function were not compiled correctly, creating the possibility of deleting records erroneously. Once this problem was corrected, we recreated the pay period files. This added 356 records to the data.

The new distribution key process was run using 26 pay periods files for 1995. The program read in the 26 pay period files which added up to 259,551 records. The data then went through a duplication process which detected 12 duplicates. There were 259,539 records left. After going through the same types of sorts, merges, and weight assignment routines this data remained intact. A check for records with no weight assignment and no stop type was done also. If a record did not meet this requirement it was deleted. The record count after this process was completed was 258,246. This count is the number of records processed.

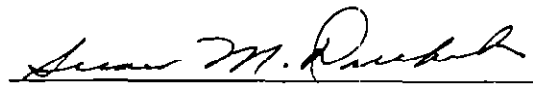
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The difference between the count found in LR-SSR 36 (295,204) and in LR-SSR 36A (259,551) is 35,653. The 35,653 number is due to the quarterly file creation with the additional pay period file included. The additional pay period file is included so that delinquent tests are counted within the quarter they were taken (**delinquent tests are tests that are taken within one pay period, but are received during the next pay period**). The additional pay period file that is included is searched for data that should be counted within the processing quarter, all other data are dropped. This process is necessary because the delinquent data are included in the annual file, built directly from pay period data. In this way, the sum of the quarterly data will equal to the annual data.

Of that, all but 89 records have been explained. The effect of 89 records, out of a quarter of a million records, on any analysis may reasonably be expected to be *de minimus*.

**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.



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July 24, 1996