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POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001 | Docket No. R2001-1

FURTHER REPORT OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
ON STATUS OF RESPONSE TO PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION
REQUEST No.4, QUESTION 4
(January 15, 2002)

Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 4, Question 4 (POIR4-4) was issued

on November 6, 2001, requesting a reply 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.

On November 29, 2001, the Postal Service filed a first status report regarding the

response to POIR4-4, indicating:

> 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.

After substantial effort, the attempt to analyze the 1969 COBOL code has been

abandoned. The manager in charge of this quest has instead determined that re-

writing the necessary code in SAS is the more prudent approach. Of course, the

expectation is that this approach will lead to sensible results. Assuming this effort is
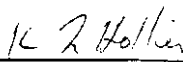
successful, ODIS reports which relied upon the antecedent code will be amenable to

re-casting based upon the newer approach.

Respectfully submitted,
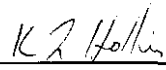
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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.

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Kenneth N. Hollies

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January 15, 2002