

Before the  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
NOTICE OF SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON  
VOLUME VARIABILITY OF MAIL PROCESSING  
February 27, 2006

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The Office of the Consumer Advocate hereby announces that it will hold a seminar and workshop on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, to present a new study of the volume variability of labor hours in mail processing plants. This study is an update of a paper presented in 2002<sup>1</sup> by Mark Roberts, a professor of economics at Pennsylvania State University.

The new paper extends the 2002 paper as follows. It generalizes the model of mail processing to incorporate differences in depth of sort across plants. It estimates the new model using more recent data. It reinterprets the results of the Postal Service model presented in Docket No. R2005-1. And it offers suggestions for further data collection.

Seminar from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (PRC Hearing Room)

Professor Roberts will explain the development of his model of the demand for mail processing labor, compare his model with the Postal Service's, and present the volume variabilities estimated using his model. Professor Roberts will answer questions of a general nature during this session. The session is open to the public and will be broadcast over the internet.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2002 paper is available at <http://www.prc.gov/OCA/papers/LaborDemand/labordemand.pdf>  
An audio file of the 2002 seminar is at <http://realserver.prc.gov/ramgen/archive/OCA-06-20-02.rm>

Workshop from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (PRC Hearing Room)

Professor Roberts will address technical questions concerning the development and estimation of his model. This session is aimed primarily at individuals with expertise in econometrics and similar fields. Observers are welcome, however. This session will also be broadcast over the internet.

Please direct further questions to Rand Costich, 202-789-6833.

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