

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

DSCF Standard Mail Load Leveling

Docket No. N2014-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued January 24, 2014)

The Postal Service is requested to respond to the following questions to clarify the record on its request for an advisory opinion under 39 U.S.C. § 3661(c) regarding a Load Leveling Plan for DSCF entered Standard Mail.¹ To facilitate inclusion of the requested material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service shall have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers. Responses shall be provided as soon as they are available, but no later than January 31, 2014.

The following questions refer to witness Malone's testimony (USPS-T-1):

1. Please provide a table (similar to USPS-T-1, Table 1), showing the days of acceptance and expected delivery for DSCF Standard Mail assuming a Monday holiday (with no mail delivery) and the existing service standards. If it is necessary for the table to extend over 7 days to show all possible outcomes, clearly indicate the Monday that is assumed to be the holiday.

¹ United States Postal Service Request for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in the Nature of Postal Services, December 27, 2013 (Request).

2. Please provide a table (similar to USPS-T-1, Table 1), showing the days of acceptance and expected delivery for DSCF Standard Mail assuming a Monday holiday (with no mail delivery) and the change in service standards associated with the Load Leveling Plan. If it is necessary for the table to extend over 7 days to show all possible outcomes, clearly indicate the Monday that is assumed to be the holiday.
3. Library Reference USPS-LR-N2014-1/2, File: "LR-2 - SJ F2 Results-FINAL.xlsx", Worksheet: "Notes", Line: 9, states "[d]ue to volume fluctuations, the baseline week was scaled based upon [the] ratio of Total Delivered Volume between the 2 average week. The average baseline week Total Delivered Volume was 93.91% of the Total Delivered Volume in the average test week. Based upon this comparison, the hours in the average baseline week were increased prior to comparing them to the average test week's hours."
 - a. Please confirm that the Postal Service adjusted the percentage of hours needed to deliver an approximate 6.49 percent increase in volume by approximately 6.49 percent.
 - b. Please confirm that the type of adjustment described in subpart "a" assumes the delivery time component is 100 percent volume variable.
 - c. Please explain whether adjusting the percentage of hours needed to deliver a set increase in volume assuming the Commission-approved delivery time volume variability factor will or will not produce a more representative result.
 - d. If using a volume variable delivery factor provides a more representative result, please reproduce the library reference using this factor.

4. Library Reference USPS-LR-N2014-1/1, LR-1-Final.pdf, APPENDIX A – MAILER NOTIFICATION BLOG, states “[t]he USPS in concert with MTAC work group 157 (Load Leveling of volumes) will be conducting a two-week operations test at the South Jersey P&DC beginning with receipt of mail on September 12th through delivery of the mail on September 26th.” Appendix A identifies a contact person, telephone number, and an email address for questions regarding the test.
 - a. Did mailers have the opportunity to opt out of the South Jersey operations test? If so, by what means could they opt out?
 - b. If mailers were allowed to opt out of the South Jersey operations test, what percentage of the DSCF Standard Mail entered at the South Jersey Plant was included in the test?
 - c. Please provide the internet address of the blog, or if the blog is no longer accessible, a transcript of the blog.
5. Assume for the purpose of this question that a low volume mailer is one that enters mail utilizing DSCF Standard Mail and mails fewer than 100,000 DSCF Standard Mail pieces per year.
 - a. What percentage of mailers utilizing DSCF Standard Mail can be considered low volume mailers?
 - b. What percentage of DSCF Standard Mail volume is accounted for by low volume mailers?
 - c. Have low volume mailers expressed any concerns to the Postal Service either through MTAC, the Postal Service’s Federal Register notice, or otherwise regarding the Load Leveling Plan, and if so what were those concerns?

The following questions refer to witness Anderson's testimony (USPS-T-2):

6. The following question concerns the service performance delivery target for DSCF Standard Mail currently subject to a 3-day service standard entered at the South Jersey Plant.
 - a. Please confirm the Postal Service has a target of 90 percent for meeting its on-time delivery standard for DSCF Standard Mail.
 - b. What percentage of DSCF Standard Mail processed by the South Jersey Plant met or exceeded its service performance on-time delivery target utilizing the proposed service standards over the span of the load leveling study (please provide this data for each day of the week if available)?
 - c. What percentage of DSCF Standard Mail processed by the South Jersey Plant met or exceeded its service performance on-time delivery target for the week immediately preceding the load leveling study (please provide this data for each day of the week if available)?
 - d. What percentage of DSCF Standard Mail processed by the South Jersey Plant met or exceeded its service performance on-time delivery target for the week immediately following the load leveling study (please provide this data for each day of the week if available)?
7. In the Postal Service response to PR/USPS-T2-3, Attachment at A-1, "Political Mail" is identified in the Delta column of the Load Leveling Plus & Delta Chart.
 - a. What percentage of DSCF entered Standard Mail is time-sensitive political mail?
 - b. Please describe how the Postal Service intends to treat such mail under the proposed Load Leveling Plan?
8. Witness Anderson states (USPS-T-2 at 3-4) that the South Jersey Operations Test increased productivity. Please provide all quantitative data that support the statement regarding the increased productivity (disaggregated by mail processing, transportation, and delivery operations, if possible).

The following questions are Institutional questions:

9. Please explain why a six week base period was chosen to evaluate potential delivery and mail processing savings at the South Jersey Plant, rather than one spanning a greater period of time. See *e.g.*, Postal Service Response to PR/USPS-T2-3 (A) & (B), Attachment at A-5.
10. Please provide a table comparing city carrier delivery hours, overtime hours, and volumes at the South Jersey plant for each month in calendar year 2012 to each month in 2013.

Mark Acton
Presiding Officer