

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

SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT
SYSTEMS FOR MARKET DOMINANT PRODUCTS

Docket No. PI2015-1

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO
QUESTION 6 OF CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 5**

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to question 6 of Chairman's Information Request No. 5, issued on November 18, 2015. This filing follows the corresponding Postal Service Motion for Late Acceptance. The question is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
By its attorneys:

Anthony Alverno
Chief Counsel, Global Business & Service
Development

Michael T. Tidwell
Susan J. Walker

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1135
(202) 268-2998; Fax -5402
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**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO.5**

6. On page 7 of the Statistical Design Plan, the Postal Service states: “[t]he operational requirements for collection box density tests call for such tests to be performed over a two week period at least one time per year.” Who will perform these tests? What is the process for determining which two weeks of the year will be selected for the test?

RESPONSE

Postal personnel responsible for retrieving mail from collection boxes will be responsible for recording density volumes. To enhance our ability to evaluate collections points on an “apples-to-apples” basis, testing is scheduled so that all or virtually all collection points can be tested during the same time frame. There is no rigid time frame during which density testing will always be scheduled for each fiscal year. Several important considerations influence the ultimate determination of when to schedule testing. The need to refresh inputs utilized by the Service Performance Measurement system sooner rather than later may influence when density testing is performed. Other factors that can affect scheduling include the objective of avoiding time frames in which an extraordinary spike in Single-Piece First-Class Mail volume can be predicted (such as the lead-up to Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day), or extraordinarily heavy routine daily delivery workload can be predicted that would strain testing commitments (such as the December holiday mailing season). The Postal Service also seeks to avoid density testing in time frames during which weather conditions routinely have the potential to disrupt (testing and) delivery operations on a widespread basis (such as during the winter).