

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 1 OF CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 6**

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to question 1 of Chairman's Information Request No. 6, issued on November 18, 2015. The question is stated verbatim and followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
By its attorneys:

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**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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- 1. On pages 7-12 of the Statistical Design Plan, the Postal Service discusses the First Mile collection profile.**
 - a. Please define the term “configurable cut-off time” as used in the discussion of the First Mile collection profile.**
 - b. Please provide the following concerning density testing:**
 - i. For the five most recent fiscal years, please include the percentage of collection boxes included in density testing (overall and by district), if the data are available.**
 - ii. For FY 2016 service performance measurements, will the Postal Service only use data from density testing performed in FY 2015, or will density testing data collected in previous years be included in the calculations? If previous years' data are included, please explain how the data are incorporated.**
 - iii. If density data are not available for one or more days of the week, the Postal Service describes a method for estimating unavailable data (page 8). Please describe the steps that the Postal Service has taken to verify the accuracy of this estimation methodology.**
 - iv. Does density testing account for mailpiece volumes at time increments (e.g., 10 pieces at 10:00 a.m., 50 pieces at 1:00 p.m., 100 pieces at 5:00 p.m., etc.)? If so, what time increments are used to record mail volume?**

RESPONSE

- a. The configurable cut-off time for each collection point represents the time of day after which mail collected from the collection point is not expected to arrive at the plant in time to be included in outgoing processing for that day. If mail is collected from a collection point after the last scheduled pick-up and prior to the configurable cut-off time on a given day, it is assumed that the mail for that collection point will be processed that day. It is attributed 0 days spent in collection as part of the Collection Profile. If mail is collected from a collection point after the last scheduled pick-up

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and after the configurable cut-off time, but prior to the end of day, it is assumed that the mail associated with the collection point will not be processed that day. The mail is attributed 1 day spent in collection as part of the Collection Profile. The cut-off time is designed to be configurable by distance from the plant for each collection box.

- b. Responses concerning density testing:
 - i. This data is not available. Before FY15, collection box densities were recorded manually and kept at the local office. There was no established process to consolidate the data; therefore, data stored in the CPMS database is incomplete for years prior to FY15. As part of the annual density testing process in FY15, densities were recorded for roughly 188,000 collection points with box types and service classes eligible for single-piece measurement. In terms of the percentage, the total number of collection points is a moving number as some portion are relocated, removed or added on a daily basis, but in total the percentage of eligible collection points recording densities is roughly 99%.
 - ii. The Postal Service will only use data from density testing performed in August and September 2015 for FY 2016 service performance measurements. The system is designed to use the most recent available annual density test data in the calculation of collection point densities.

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- iii. Please see our response to ChIR 4, Question 5.
- iv. Each time a collection box is collected the collector must record the density. For example if a box is collected three times: 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00, volumes are recorded each time the box is collected and volumes consolidated so the box gets full credit for all volume produced throughout the day.