

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE OCA (OCA/USPS-109 – 111)
(November 29, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to the following interrogatories of the OCA, filed on November 15, 2006: OCA/USPS-109 – 111. Partial objections were filed regarding these questions on November 27, 2006. Provision of these answers is not intended to waive those objections.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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November 29, 2006

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OCA/USPS-109. The program “City Carrier Street Time Model.2004 data.variability equations.encrypted.sas” is presented in USPS-LR-L-180. The program references a number of files: Street.Time.MaskedZips.prn, LFVolume.MaskedZips.prn, PAVolume.MaskedZips.prn, Possible.Del.Points.MaskedZips.prn, and Density.MaskedZips.prn. None of the files is provided in “prn” format in USPS-LR-L-179. Please provide the files in “prn” format.

RESPONSE:

The requested files were filed in response to TW/ADVO/USPS-3.

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OCA/USPS-110. In lieu of the referenced “.prn” files, a number of Excel files which appear generally to provide the data required to run the program “City Carrier Street Time Model.2004” are provided in USPS-LR-L-180. In some cases the variable names used in the SAS program in USPS-LR-L-180 are not consistent with the variable names used in the Excel files provided in USPS-LR-L-179. Accordingly, OCA requests clarification of variable names.

- (a) Please provide a 1-1 mapping of the names used in the SAS program in USPS-LR-L-180 in reading the file associated with Time with the names in the Excel file Street.Time.maskedZips.xls, found in USPS-LR-L-179.
- (b) In the case of Street.Time.maskedZips.xls in USPS-LR-L-179 there appear to be more columns than data items read by the SAS program. Please explain the additional data items and their potential usage.

RESPONSE:

- (a) After the variables for ZIP, route, and date, the SAS program provided in USPS-LR-L-180 reads in the variables in Street.Time.maskedZips.xls, found in USPS-LR-L-179, in order.
- (b) These items, which are non-street time, offclock time, prep time, and na (error) time, are not used in the variability analysis. These data items are discussed in USPS-LR-L-179.

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OCA/USPS-111. In attempting to run the SAS program in USPS-LR-L-180, one obtains the following information in the SAS Log:

```
75 ***** ;
76 *** This section of the program converts alphabetic route numbers*** ;
77 *** and constructs a unique Zip-Route ID for each route***** ;
78 ***** ;
79
80 Data time2; set time1;
81 if mzip='62398' and rt='02' then rt='01';
82 if rt = 'XX' then rt=99.9;
83 if rt = '0A' or rt = '0B' or rt = '0D' or rt = '0E' or rt = '0W'
84 or rt = '1A' or rt = '4A' or rt = '4B' or rt = 'A7' or rt = 'C2'
85 or rt = 'C3' or rt = 'CA' or rt = 'CK' or rt = 'CT' or rt = 'CV'
86 or rt = 'ES' or rt = 'EV' or rt = 'F1' or rt = 'G5' or rt = 'HK'
87 or rt = 'IT' or rt = 'L1' or rt = 'L3' or rt = 'L7' or rt = 'MD'
88 or rt = 'MF' or rt = 'O1' or rt = 'O2' or rt = 'O5' or rt = 'O7'
89 or rt = 'OL' or rt = 'P1' or rt = 'P2' or rt = 'RE' or rt = 'UX'
90 or rt = 'VY' or rt = 'W8' or rt = '1M' or rt = 'AT' or rt = 'CD'
91 or rt = 'OS' or rt = 'SA' or rt = 'SJ' or rt = 'SS' or rt = 'TH'
92 or rt = 'C1' or rt = 'C9' or rt = '5A' or rt = 'XP' or rt = 'LK'
93 or rt = 'P6' or rt = 'S9'
94 then nrt=11.1;
95 else nrt=rt;
96 rtind=nrt/100;
97 ziprt=mzip+rtind;
98 run;
```

NOTE: Character values have been converted to numeric values at the places given by: (Line):(Column).
81:9 95:10

NOTE: Numeric values have been converted to character values at the places given by: (Line):(Column).
82:22

NOTE: Invalid numeric data, rt='519C0004' , at line 95 column 10.
mzip=10303 rt=519C0004 date=22APR2004 lfdt=0 cudt=0 ndct=0 vmdt=0 cedt=0 dmdt=0
ddtt=0 ntt=1076 tftt=1060 rlt=0 gct=0 ect=0 pdt=716 adt=0 padt=0 padt2=0 cpdt=0
nonstrt=0 offclock=0 strtprep=0 na=2490 nrt=. rtind=. ziprt=. _ERROR_=1 _N_=6

NOTE: Invalid numeric data, rt='519C0004' , at line 95 column 10.
mzip=10303 rt=519C0004 date=23APR2004 lfdt=0 cudt=0 ndct=0 vmdt=0 cedt=0 dmdt=0
ddtt=0 ntt=10519 tftt=2162 rlt=0 gct=0 ect=0 pdt=2736 adt=523 padt=0 padt2=13
cpdt=0 nonstrt=0 offclock=0 strtprep=0 na=1210 nrt=. rtind=. ziprt=. _ERROR_=1
N=7

NOTE: Invalid numeric data, rt='519C0004' , at line 95 column 10.
mzip=10303 rt=519C0004 date=24APR2004 lfdt=0 cudt=0 ndct=11490 vmdt=0 cedt=0
dmdt=0 ddtt=0 ntt=0 tftt=2475 rlt=0 gct=0 ect=0 pdt=3255 adt=150 padt=0 padt2=0
cpdt=0 nonstrt=0 offclock=0 strtprep=0 na=1623 nrt=. rtind=. ziprt=. _ERROR_=1
N=8

The program eventually reaches the limit for reportable errors. An examination of the databases appears to show that the variable "date" is in the form of a character variable in the Street Time database, but is in the form of a numeric variable in both of the volume databases. The variable "route" appears to be a character variable in all three databases. However, there seems to be some automatic conversion of character and numeric variables in the SAS log, after line 98. This may be indicative of a problem; in any case, the databases furnished do not appear to be compatible with the program.

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- (a) Please identify needed corrections to the SAS program in order that it will reproduce the results reported in USPS-LR-L-180 when using the data from the furnished Excel files in USPS-LR-L-179.
- (b) Please provide the appropriate databases(s) so that the program will run.

RESPONSE:

- a-b. The SAS program should run without error using the .prn files provided in the response to TW/ADVO/USPS-3.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document in accordance with Section 12 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

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