

The evaluation of actual results of computer use against anticipated results is incorporated in various management review systems. The first level of review consists of monthly progress reports and monthly meetings held with ADP management personnel. In some critical areas, there are a series of weekly status reports. Additionally, the overall program evaluation system described previously provides an evaluation in depth of the effectiveness of various computer systems in meeting program goals. The budget process also provides a vehicle which is utilized to review the results of computer applications as well as the review of additional applications.

52. In general, have your computers produced the benefits that were expected?

In general, our computer applications have produced the benefits expected such as a reduction in personnel in some areas, more timely and accurate data, and access to data which was previously unavailable to those in the decisionmaking process. However, we have not been entirely satisfied with the magnitude nor the time required to implement various systems.

53. How many computers do you now have, and how many of these are purchased?

The Commission has one computer. It was installed in July of 1967 on a leased basis.

54. Who makes the decision on whether computers are purchased or leased?

The decision whether a computer is purchased or leased is made by the Managing Director with the approval of the Chairman. Inherent in the decision is the length of time the computer configuration will be adequate for our needs. The decision to lease our present computer which was acquired in July of 1967 was based upon the concept that it was an interim acquisition since it provided an emulator feature which allowed us to run our existing programs until such time as they could be converted to higher level languages such as COBOL and FORTRAN. Also at the time of acquisition a complete picture of our future workload, particularly in the area of tariff computerization was not available.

55. Is your agency now using any leased ADP equipment? If so, how much longer do you expect to use it?

The Commission is currently leasing its Spectra 70 computer. We anticipate using it until all programs are converted to higher level languages and our future data processing needs are identified. At that time a decision will be made to exercise our purchase option (less the emulator feature) or replace the configuration with different hardware. We project this decision at approximately 1 year away.

56. Have you made use of third-party leasing arrangements? If so, what has been your experience with these arrangements?

The Commission has no third-party arrangements. The matter has been explored with various lessors but at the time they were not interested in acquiring the type of equipment we utilized.

57. To what extent have you developed standard systems or applications which are used by your computer installations?

Since we have only one computer installation, standardization across various computers is not a problem. However, we have standardized our programming languages by using COBOL or FORTRAN, with the major emphasis on COBOL. Additionally, we are experimenting with generalized information retrieval routines and the development of standard systems for processing of various statistical reports from carriers. In the development of our generalized information retrieval routines, we are utilizing a comprehensive software package obtained from NASA.

58. Will you describe the steps you have taken for the development of standard data elements for use by your department under the program recently established by Bureau of the Budget Circular A-86?

This agency has commented as appropriate on the various proposed standards that have been submitted for our recommendation. Additionally key personnel have participated with various groups in their review and establishment of standard codes or data elements. Any Federal standards established will be utilized in our systems as they have been in the past such as our adoption of the STCC commodity code.

59. What do you consider to be the most pressing problems that need to be overcome for you to make better and more efficient use of computers in your agency?

Our most pressing problem from an operational point of view is the phasing out of the emulation mode in running our programs. Attainment of this goal