

United States Government Memorandum

To: Magalie Roman Salas
From: W. Sharkey
D. Mark Kennet
J. Primbrey
Subject: Release of version 2.6 of the Hybrid Cost Proxy Model
Date: July 20, 1998

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**Re: CC Docket No. 96-45; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, and
CC Docket No. 97-160: Forward-Looking Mechanism for High Cost Support for Non-Rural LECs**

Attached to this memorandum is a disk which contains source code and executable files for version 2.6 of the Hybrid Cost Proxy Model (HCPM). Version 2.6 of HCPM differs from the previous releases in two respects. A number of small modifications have been made to the loop design module FEEDDIST to fine tune the model under the expectation that it will ultimately be used with a source of geocode data rather than Census block level data. The current release contains a clustering module, called CLUSTER. This module incorporates explicit optimization routines as part of the cluster formation process, and also allows the user to choose from, and evaluate, three different clustering algorithms. A new module, called CLUSINTF, has been developed to provide an interface between the cluster and loop design modules. In all other respects, version 2.6 of HCPM is identical to version 2.5, which was publicly released on February 6, 1998.

A set of data inputs for the state of Maryland is also provided with the release of HCPM 2.6. These data have been prepared using the software product ExchangeInfo Plus(TM), available from On Target Mapping, and are available on the FCC web site at http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Other/hcpm.

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