

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 65, No. 244

Tuesday, December 19, 2000

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ24

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the St. Louis, MO, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing a final rule that will abolish the St. Louis, MO, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. Printing and lithographic employees in the St. Louis wage area will now be paid from the regular St. Louis appropriated fund FWS wage area schedule. This change is necessary because there are no longer enough printing and lithographic employees in the wage area to conduct the local special wage survey successfully.

DATES: Effective Date: This regulation is effective on January 18, 2001.

Applicability Date: Agencies will place employees who are paid from the St. Louis special wage schedule on the St. Louis regular wage schedule on December 17, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chenty I. Carpenter at (202) 606-8359; by FAX at (202) 606-4264; or by email at cicarpen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 14, 2000, the Office of Personnel Management published an interim rule (65 FR 55431) to abolish the St. Louis, MO, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. The interim rule had a 30-day period for comment, during which we received no comments.

The Department of Defense (DOD) recommended that we abolish this

special wage schedule because it has become extremely difficult for DOD to release adequate numbers of employees to conduct the local special wage survey successfully. The number of printing and lithographic employees in the wage area has declined from about 225 employees in 1985 to about 17 employees currently. These employees work in various locations throughout the St. Louis wage area. Twelve of these employees work for the Defense Logistics Agency, four work for the Department of the Army, and one works for the National Guard Bureau. DOD has found it increasingly difficult to comply with the requirement that employees paid from the special printing schedule participate in the local special wage survey process. The decline in employment is expected to continue until there are no longer any printing and lithographic employees in the wage area.

Printing and lithographic employees will convert to the St. Louis FWS regular wage schedule on a grade-for-grade basis. Each employee's new rate of pay will be set at the step rate for the applicable grade of the regular wage schedule that equals the employee's existing rate of pay. If an employee's existing pay rate falls between two steps on the regular schedule, the new rate will be set at the higher of the two steps. If an employee's existing pay rate is higher than the highest rate for his or her grade on the regular schedule, the employee will, if otherwise eligible, be entitled to pay retention. The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, the national labor-management committee that advises OPM on FWS pay matters, reviewed and concurred by consensus with this change.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it will affect only Federal agencies and employees.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 532

Administrative practice and procedure, Freedom of information, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wages.

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5343, the interim rule (65 FR 55431) amending 5 CFR part 532 published on September 14, 2000, is adopted as final with no changes.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

[FR Doc. 00-32284 Filed 12-18-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ23

Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Los Angeles, CA, Appropriated Fund Wage Area

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a final rule to remove Inyo County, CA, from the Los Angeles, CA, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area. The county, excluding the China Lake Naval Weapons Center portion, will be defined to the Las Vegas, NV, FWS wage area. This will affect FWS employees at Death Valley National Park by placing them on a higher wage schedule.

DATES: Effective Date: This regulation is effective on January 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chenty I. Carpenter by phone at (202) 606-2838, by FAX at (202) 606-4264, or by email at cicarpen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 17, 2000, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published a proposed rule (65 FR 50165) to move Inyo County, California, from the Los Angeles, CA, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area to the Las Vegas, NV, FWS wage area. The proposed rule had a 30-day period for public comment, during which we received no comments.

OPM considers the following regulatory criteria under 5 CFR 532.211 when defining FWS wage area boundaries:

- (i) Distance, transportation facilities, and geographic features;
- (ii) Commuting patterns; and
- (iii) Similarities in overall population employment, and the kinds and sizes of private industrial establishments.

Inyo County is currently an area of application county in the Los Angeles wage area. Based on our analysis of the