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OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

5 CFR Part 1800

Correction to Statutory Citation

AGENCY: Office of Special Counsel

ACTION: Final Rule; Technical Amendment

SUMMARY: The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is correcting a statutory citation in its regulation on filing complaints of prohibited personnel practices or other prohibited activity at 5 CFR 1800.1.

DATES: This rule is effective on **December 24, 2002.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathryn Stackhouse, Planning and Advice Division, by telephone at (202) 653-8971, or by fax at (202) 653-5161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is directed to the public in general, and to current and former Federal employees and applicants for Federal employment in particular, who may want to allege a prohibited personnel practice or other violation of civil service law, rule, or regulation by a Federal agency.

OSC is correcting an erroneous statutory citation to federal merit system principles in its regulation on filing complaints of prohibited personnel practices at 5 C.F.R. 1800.1(a)(12). The citation in the current regulation refers to 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(1). This citation, however, is incorrect, and should read 5 U.S.C. 2301(b).

This action is taken under the Special Counsel's authority, at 5 U.S.C. 1212(e), to publish regulations in the Federal Register. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), statutory procedures for agency rulemaking do not apply "when the agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable,

unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." OSC finds that such notice and public procedure are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest, on the grounds that: (1) this amendment is technical and non-substantive; and (2) the public benefits from early correction of an incorrect statutory citation.

OSC is submitting this final rule to Congress and the General Accounting Office pursuant to the Congressional Review Act. The rule is effective upon publication, as permitted by 5 U.S.C. 808. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 808(2), OSC finds that good cause exists for this effective date, based on the reasons cited in the preceding paragraph.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 1800

Equal employment opportunity, Government employees, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Whistleblowing

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Office of Special Counsel is amending title 5, part 1800 as follows:

Part 1800 - Filing of Complaints and Allegations

1. The authority citation for Part 1800 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 1212(e).

2. Replace the statutory citation in § 1800.1(a)(12) that reads "5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(1)" with "5 U.S.C. 2301(b)".

Dated: December 16, 2002.

Elaine D. Kaplan,

Special Counsel.

[FR Doc. 02-32375 Filed 12-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7405-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Rural Utilities Service

Farm Service Agency

7 CFR Parts 1806, 1822, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1930, 1940, 1944, 1948, 1950, 1951, 1955, 1965, 1980, and 3550

RIN 0575-AB99

Reengineering and Reinvention of the Direct Section 502 and 504 Single Family Housing (SFH) Programs

AGENCIES: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, Rural Utilities Service, and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS), published an interim final rule on November 22, 1996 (61 FR 59761-59802) requesting comments on the Single Family Housing regulations. This action incorporates the changes made as a result of the comments received and is taken to further reduce unnecessary Federal regulations, improve customer service, and improve the agency's ability to achieve greater efficiency, flexibility and effectiveness in managing its SFH portfolio. The intended effect of this action is to improve service to rural America and comply with the Administration's goal of reducing unnecessary Federal regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 23, 2003 except 3550.63 (the maximum loan limit) will be effective on March 24, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas P. Dickson, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing, Direct Loan Division, Rural Housing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 0783, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0783, telephone (202) 720-1474.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Classification

This rule has been determined to be not significant and was not reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866.