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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AK06

Prevailing Rate Systems; Change in the Survey Month for the Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region Survey

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing a final rule to change the timing of annual wage surveys conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Department of the Interior, to determine prevailing rates of pay for supervisors of negotiated rate wage employees in the Bureau's Mid-Pacific Region.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This regulation is effective on January 31, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madeline Gonzalez at (202) 606-2838; FAX at (202) 606-4264; or e-mail at pay-performance-policy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 31, 2003, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published a proposed rule (68 FR 62027) to change the timing of annual wage surveys conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Department of the Interior (DOI), to determine prevailing rates of pay for supervisors of negotiated rate wage employees in the Bureau's Mid-Pacific Region. The proposed rule had a 30-day comment period, during which we received no comments. Currently, BOR conducts wage surveys in the region in October each year. Wage surveys will be conducted in the future in February.

DOI asked OPM to change the survey month for local wage surveys in the Mid-Pacific Region because February

represents the best timing in relation to wage adjustments in the surveyed local private enterprise establishments and would improve the quality of data BOR collects during local wage surveys in this special wage area. Local private industry establishments surveyed by BOR in the Mid-Pacific Region typically make their wage adjustments effective in January of each year. BOR will conduct wage surveys in February in the Mid-Pacific Region beginning in calendar year 2004. Since DOI implements the results of the wage surveys in the month following the survey month, wage adjustments for supervisors of negotiated rate wage employees in the Mid-Pacific Region will become effective in March. Thus, they will more closely coincide with local prevailing rates.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that this regulation would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it would 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.

Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

■ Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management proposes to amend 5 CFR part 532 as follows:

PART 532—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 532 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 5343, 5346; § 532.707 also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552.

§ 532.285 [Amended]

■ 2. In § 532.285 paragraph (d), amend the special wage area listing for the Mid-Pacific Region by removing from beginning month of survey "October" and adding in its place "February."

[FR Doc. 04-3252 Filed 2-12-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-39-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Parts 1724, 1726, and 1755

RIN 0572-AB67

Revision of Electric Program Standard Contract Forms

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is amending its regulations to revise its standard forms of contracts that borrowers are required to use when contracting for construction and procurement, that are or will be financed by loans made or guaranteed by RUS, in accordance with applicable RUS regulations. RUS is updating, consolidating, and streamlining these standard forms of contracts. These changes are being made to improve the usefulness of the standard forms of contract and to make it easier for RUS borrowers to utilize these standard forms of contract.

DATES: This rule will become effective on March 15, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred J. Gatchell, Deputy Director, Electric Staff Division, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1569, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-1569. Telephone: (202) 720-1398. FAX: (202) 720-7491. E-mail: Fred.Gatchell@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

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

Executive Order 12372

This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State and local officials. See the final rule related notice entitled, "Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372," (50 FR 47034) advising that RUS loans and loan guarantees were not covered by Executive Order 12372.