

Dated: June 30, 2005.

Connie M. Downs,

OPIC Corporate Secretary.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Personnel Demonstration Project; Alternative Personnel Management System for the U.S. Department of Commerce

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Notice of modification to the
Department of Commerce Personnel
Management Demonstration Project.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel
Management (OPM) has authority to
conduct demonstration projects that
experiment with new and different
human resources management concepts
to determine whether changes in
policies and procedures result in
improved Federal human resources
management. OPM approved a
demonstration project covering several
operating units of the U.S. Department
of Commerce (DoC). OPM must approve
all modifications to approved
demonstration project plans. This notice
proposes to further expand the coverage
of the demonstration project to include
two bargaining units contained within
organizations already included in the
project. This notice also announces the
realignment of the Space Environment
Center (SEC), Boulder, Colorado, from
the Office of Atmospheric Research
(OAR) of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to
the National Weather Service (NWS) of
NOAA located in Boulder, Colorado.
This notice also adds several new
occupational series used in the project
and identifies changes to the **Federal
Register** notice document Volume 68,
Number 180, on page 54506, dated
Wednesday, September 17, 2003. These
changes do not require waivers.

DATES: This notice modifying the DoC
Demonstration Project may be
implemented upon publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Department of Commerce: Joan
Jorgenson, U.S. Department of
Commerce, 14th and Constitution
Avenue, NW., Room 5014, Washington,
DC 20230, (202) 482-4233. Office of
Personnel Management: Jill Rajae, U.S.
Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E
Street, NW., Room 7667, Washington,
DC 20415, (202) 606-0836.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

The Office of Personnel Management
(OPM) approved the Department of
Commerce (DoC) Demonstration Project
and published the final plan in the
Federal Register Volume 62, Number
247, Part II, on Wednesday, December
24, 1997. The project was implemented
on March 29, 1998, and modified in the
Federal Register on Thursday,
September 30, 1999, Volume 64,
Number 189 (Notices)(Pages 52810-
52812) and on Tuesday, August 12,
2003, Volume 68, Number 155
(Notices)(Pages 47948-47949). OPM
approved a request to extend the DoC
Demonstration Project for five years as
stated in an administrative letter from
OPM, dated February 14, 2003. The
project was approved for expansion in
Federal Register notice Volume 68,
Number 180, dated Wednesday,
September 17, 2003 (Notices) (Pages
54505-54507) to include an additional
1,505 employees.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 4703; 5 CFR 470.31.5.

Office of Personnel Management.

Dan G. Blair,

Acting Director.

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I. Executive Summary

The Department of Commerce (DoC)
Demonstration Project utilizes many
features similar to those implemented
by the National Institute of Standards
and Technology (NIST) demonstration
project in 1988. The DoC Demonstration
Project supports several key objectives:
To simplify the classification system for
greater flexibility in classifying work
and paying employees; to establish a
performance management and rewards
system for improving individual and
organizational performance; and to
improve recruitment and retention to
attract highly qualified candidates. The
project is designed to test whether the
interventions of the NIST project, which
is now a permanent alternative
personnel system, could be successful
in other DoC environments. The current
participating organizations include the
Office of the Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration
(CFO/ASA), the Technology
Administration, the Bureau of Economic
Analysis, the Institute for
Telecommunication Sciences, and three
units of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration: Office of
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research,
National Marine Fisheries Service, and

the National Environmental Satellite,
Data, and Information Service.

II. Basis for Project Plan Modification

(1) Employees of two bargaining units
within the Office of the Chief Financial
Officer and Assistant Secretary for
Administration (CFO/ASA) have
requested participation in the DoC
Demonstration Project. The Washington
Printing and Graphic Communications
Union (WPGC), Local 1-C of the
Graphic Communications International
Union, AFL-CIO, has requested
inclusion. This unit consists of all
employees engaged in printing and
production work, in the Publications
and Graphics Division, Office of
Administrative Services (OAS), located
in Washington, DC. The American
Federation of Government Employees,
Local 2186, AFL-CIO, has requested
inclusion. This unit consists of Police
Officers and Security Guards in the
Office of Security (OSY), located in
Boulder, Colorado. Appropriate
consultations have been conducted with
officials of both locals, and all
employees have received a specific
briefing on the demonstration project.
Management will also notify the
employee organizations representing
these employees and provide all
employees with a copy of this **Federal
Register** notice upon publication.

(2) The Space Environment Center
(SEC) currently consists of 50
employees who are participating in the
project whose duty location is Boulder,
Colorado. The SEC is an organizational
component of the Office of Atmospheric
Research (OAR), which is a component
of the National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
In order to improve organizational
efficiency, NOAA realigned the SEC
from OAR to the National Weather
Service (NWS), another organizational
component of NOAA. The duty location
of these employees remains Boulder,
Colorado. Appropriate consultations
with the National Weather Service
Employees Organization (NWSEO) were
conducted. All employees of the Space
Environment Center have received a
specific briefing on this realignment of
the demonstration project. Management
also notified the employee organizations
representing these employees and will
provide all employees with a copy of
this **Federal Register** notice upon
publication.

No other organizational components
of NWS are participating in the project.
The SEC remains a separate and distinct
organization consisting solely of
employees participating in the project.

(3) In the **Federal Register** notice
Volume 68, Number 180, on page 54506,

dated Wednesday, September 17, 2003, the following corrections are noted:

On page 54506, in C. Changes to the Plan (1) Section II. E: Participating Employees, move the series 0083, Police, and the series 0085, Security Guard, from the Administrative (ZA) Career Path to the Support (ZS) Career Path. Move the series 0350, Equipment Operator, from the Scientific and Engineering Technician (ZT) Career Path to the Support (ZS) Career Path. Move the series 0150, Geography, and the series 0170, History, from the Administrative (ZA) Career Path to the Scientific and Engineering (ZP) Career Path. Move the series 0963, Legal Instruments Examining, from the Administrative (ZA) Career Path to the Support (ZS) Career Path.

The changes to the placement of these series in different career paths will have no impact on the pay, series, or pay band classification of employees in these series. Employees have been

notified of these changes, and management will provide a copy of this approved **Federal Register** notice to the affected employees and to the employee organizations representing these employees.

III. Changes to the Project Plan

The following discussion refers readers to the substantive changes to the project plan.

(1) Section II. D. Participating Organizations. Add:

National Weather Service (NWS) to the participating organizations on behalf of the 50 reorganized employees.

DoC has realigned an organization within the Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR) containing 50 employees already included in the DoC Demonstration Project to NWS. This realignment will not increase the total number of employees covered by the DoC Demonstration Project beyond the 5,000 statutory limit. The total number

of employees currently covered by the project is 4,285.

NWS, a major subcomponent of NOAA, provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other Governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

The dominant occupation within NWS is Meteorologist. Other key occupations are Meteorologist Technician, Physical Scientist, and Hydrologist.

(2) Section II. E: Participating Employees.

The following bargaining units are added to Table 4—Bargaining Unit Coverage.

Operating unit	Location	Union local
CFO/ASA	Boulder, Co	AFGE 2186
CFO/ASA	Washington, DC	WPGC 1-C

(3) Section II. E: Participating Employees

The following series are added to Table 2.

Administrative (ZA) Career Path

0132	Intelligence Series.
0299	Human Resources Management Student Trainee Series.
1099	Information and Arts Student Trainee Series.
1199	Business and Industry Student Trainee Series.
1499	Library and Archives Student Trainee Series.
1699	Equipment and Facilities Management Student Trainee.
1899	Investigation Student Trainee Series.
2099	Supply Student Trainee Series.
2199	Transportation Student Trainee Series.

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BILLING CODE 6325-43-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration # 10130]

**Montana Disaster # MT-00001
Declaration of Economic Injury**

AGENCY: Small Business Administration.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration for the State of Montana, dated 06/23/2005.

Incident: Closure of Highway 212, Beartooth Highway caused by landslides.

Incident Period: 05/20/2005 and continuing.

DATES: Effective Date: 06/23/2005.
EIDL Loan Application Deadline Date: 03/23/2006.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area Office 3, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's EIDL declaration on 06/23/2005, applications for economic injury disaster loans may be filed at the

address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties:

Carbon Park, Stillwater

Contiguous Counties:

Montana

Big Horn, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Meagher, Sweet Grass, Yellowstone

Wyoming

Big Horn Park

The Interest Rate is: 4.000.

The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 101300.

The States which received an EIDL Declaration # are Montana, Wyoming