

Presiding Officer. A notice granting a hearing will be published in the **Federal Register** and served on the parties to the hearing.

For further details with respect to this application, see the application dated September 5, 2025 (ADAMS Accession No. ML25248A301).

Dated: January 30, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michelle Sutherland,

Acting Chief, Reactor Decommissioning Branch, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 2026-02132 Filed 2-2-26; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

January 2026 Pay Schedules

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The President adjusted the rates of basic pay for certain Federal civilian employees effective in January 2026 by Executive order. The Executive order authorizes a 1.0 percent across-the-board increase for statutory pay systems and provides that locality pay percentages will remain at 2025 levels. This notice serves as documentation for the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Dismond; Pay, Leave, and Workforce Flexibilities; Workforce Policy and Innovation; Office of Personnel Management; (202) 606-2858 or paypolicy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 18, 2025, the President signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14368 (90 FR 60521), which implemented pay adjustments for certain Federal civilian employees in January 2026. E.O. 14368 provides an across-the-board increase of 1.0 percent for the statutory pay systems. This is consistent with the President's alternative pay plan issued under 5 U.S.C. 5303(b) and 5304a on August 28, 2025. The pay rates in E.O. 14132 have been superseded.

The publication of this notice satisfies the requirement in Section 5(b) of E.O. 14368 that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publish appropriate notice of the 2026 locality payments in the **Federal Register**.

Schedule 1 of E.O. 14368 provides the rates for the 2026 General Schedule (GS) and reflects a 1.0 percent increase from 2025. Executive Order 14368 also

includes the percentage amounts of the 2026 locality payments. (See Section 5 and Schedule 9 of Executive Order 14368.)

General Schedule employees receive locality payments under 5 U.S.C. 5304. Locality payments apply in the United States (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5921(4)) and its territories and possessions. In 2026, locality payments ranging from 17.06 percent to 46.34 percent apply to GS employees in the 58 locality pay areas. The 2026 locality pay area definitions¹ can be found on OPM's website.

The 2026 locality pay percentages became effective the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2026 (January 11, 2026). An employee's locality rate of pay is computed by increasing his or her scheduled annual rate of pay (as defined in 5 CFR 531.602) by the applicable locality pay percentage. (See 5 CFR 531.604 and 531.609.)

Executive Order 14368 establishes the new Executive Schedule (EX), which incorporates a 1.0 percent increase required under 5 U.S.C. 5318 (rounded to the nearest \$100). By law, Executive Schedule officials are not authorized to receive locality payments.

Executive Order 14368 establishes the 2026 range of rates of basic pay for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) under 5 U.S.C. 5382. The minimum rate of basic pay for the SES is \$151,661 in 2026. The maximum rate of the SES rate range is \$228,000 (level II of the Executive Schedule) for SES members who are covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system and \$209,600 (level III of the Executive Schedule) for SES members who are not covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system.

The minimum rate of basic pay for the senior-level (SL) and scientific and professional (ST) rate range was increased by 1.0 percent (\$151,661 in 2026), which is the amount of the across-the-board GS increase. The applicable maximum rate of the SL/ST rate range is \$228,000 (level II of the Executive Schedule) for SL or ST employees who are covered by a certified SL/ST performance appraisal system and \$209,600 (level III of the Executive Schedule) for SL or ST employees who are not covered by a certified SL/ST performance appraisal system. Agencies with certified performance appraisal systems for SES members and employees in SL and ST

positions must also apply a higher aggregate limitation on pay—up to the Vice President's salary (\$292,300 in 2026.)

The Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (Pub. L. 119-37, November 12, 2025), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for the Vice President and certain senior political appointees at the rates of pay and applicable limitations on payable rates of pay through January 30, 2026. Future Congressional action will determine whether the pay freeze continues beyond that date. OPM guidance on the continued pay freeze for certain senior political officials can be found in CPM 2025-21.²

Executive Order 14368 provides that the rates of basic pay for administrative law judges (ALJs) under 5 U.S.C. 5372 are increased by 1.0 percent (rounded to the nearest \$100) in 2026. The rate of basic pay for AL-1 is \$197,200 (equivalent to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule). The rate of basic pay for AL-2 is \$192,400. The rates of basic pay for AL-3/A through 3/F range from \$131,700 to \$182,400.

The rates of basic pay for members of Contract Appeals Boards are calculated as a percentage of the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule. (See 5 U.S.C. 5372a.) Therefore, these rates of basic pay are increased by 1.0 percent in 2026.

On December 9, 2025, OPM issued a memorandum³ on behalf of the President's Pay Agent (the Secretary of Labor and the Directors of the Office of Management of Budget and OPM) that continues GS locality payments for ALJs and certain other non-GS employee categories in 2026. By law, EX officials, SES members, employees in SL/ST positions, and employees in certain other equivalent pay systems are not authorized to receive locality payments. (Note: An exception applies to certain grandfathered SES, SL, and ST employees stationed in a nonforeign area on January 2, 2010 (see CPM 2009-27)⁴).

² Office of Personnel Management. "Updated Guidance-Pay Freeze for Certain Senior Political Officials." <https://www.opm.gov/chcoc/latest-memos/updated-guidance-pay-freeze-for-certain-senior-political-officials.pdf>

³ Office of Personnel Management. "Continuation of Locality Payments for Non-General Schedule Employees." <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2025/continuation-of-locality-payments-for-non-general-schedule-employees.pdf>

⁴ Office of Personnel Management. "Nonforeign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act." <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2026/locality-pay-area-definitions>

On December 18, 2025, OPM issued a memorandum (CPM 2025–18)⁵ on the 2026 pay adjustments. The memorandum transmitted Executive Order 14368 and provided the 2026 salary tables, locality pay areas and percentages, and information on general pay administration matters and other related guidance. The 2026 “Salaries & Wages” posted on OPM’s website⁶ are the official rates of pay for affected employees and are hereby incorporated as part of this notice.

The Director of OPM, Scott Kupor, reviewed and approved this document and has authorized the undersigned to electronically sign and submit this document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Office of Personnel Management.

Jerson Matias,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 2026–02189 Filed 2–2–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104757; File No. 600–39]

Paxos Securities Settlement Company, LLC; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on Proceedings To Determine Whether To Grant or Deny an Application for Registration as a Clearing Agency Under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

January 30, 2026.

On July 14, 2025, Paxos Securities Settlement Company, LLC (“PSSC”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) an application on Form CA–1 (“Application”) under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) seeking to register as a clearing agency.¹ Notice of the Application was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2025 (“Notice”),² and the Commission received a comment in response to the

www.opm.gov/chcoc/transmittals/2009/nonforeign-area-retirement-equity-assurance-act_508_0.pdf.

⁵ Office of Personnel Management. “January 2026 Pay Adjustments.” <https://www.opm.gov/chcoc/latest-memos/january-2026-pay-adjustments.pdf>.

⁶ Office of Personnel Management. “Salaries & Wages.” <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78q–1. Non-confidential aspects of the Application, including any exhibits thereto cited in this order, are available on the Commission’s website at: <https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/other-commission-orders-notices-information/pssc-form-ca-1>.

² Release No. 34–103624 (Aug. 1, 2025), 90 FR 37940 (Aug. 6, 2025).

Application.³ On November 4, 2025, the Commission issued an order instituting proceedings to determine whether to grant or deny the Application (“OIP”).⁴

Section 19(a)(1)(B) of the Exchange Act provides that proceedings instituted to determine whether to deny an application for registration as a clearing agency shall be concluded within 180 days of the date of a publication of notice of the filing of the application for registration.⁵ At the conclusion of such proceedings, the Commission, by order, shall grant or deny such registration.⁶ The Commission may extend the time for conclusion of such proceedings for up to 90 days if it finds good cause for such extension and publishes its reasons for so finding.⁷ The Notice was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2025.⁸ The 180th day after publication of the Notice is February 2, 2026. The Commission is extending the time for granting or denying PSSC’s Application for registration as a clearing agency for an additional 90 days.

The Commission finds good cause for extending the period for granting or denying PSSC’s Application because the extension will provide additional time for the Commission to assess whether the Application satisfies the requirements of Section 17A of the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder for clearing agencies. In the OIP, the Commission sought comment regarding the Application’s consistency with Section 17A(b)(3) of the Exchange Act. In addition, as described in the OIP, PSSC would provide services using a private, permissioned settlement service that supports a distributed ledger, which is designed to conduct delivery versus payment settlement on a bilateral basis, and would become a participant in the Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) so that PSSC can make its services available to other DTC participants.⁹ This novel structure affects the way in which PSSC conducts risk management and risk surveillance, and the rules pursuant to which PSSC would manage the default of its participants. Therefore, the Commission believes there is good cause to extend the time for conclusion of the proceedings for 90 days.

³ The public comment file for the Application is available on the Commission’s website at: <https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/2025/08/600-39>.

⁴ Release No. 34–104174 (Nov. 4, 2025), 90 FR 51416 (Nov. 17, 2025).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(a)(1)(B).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ See *supra* note 2.

⁹ 90 FR at 51416 & nn.7–8.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 19(a)(1)(B) of the Exchange Act,¹⁰ the Commission designates May 3, 2026, as the date by which the Commission shall either grant or deny PSSC’s Application.

By the Commission.

Sherry R. Haywood,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–02197 Filed 2–2–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104741; File No. SR–ICC–2025–014]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; ICE Clear Credit LLC; Notice of Designation of Longer Period for Commission Action on Proposed Rule Change Relating to the ICC Collateral Risk Management Framework

January 29, 2026.

On December 29, 2025, ICE Clear Credit LLC (“ICC”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) the proposed rule change SR–ICC–2025–014, pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) and Rule 19b–4² thereunder, to revise the ICC Collateral Risk Management Framework (the “Proposed Rule Change”).³ The Proposed Rule Change was published for public comment in the **Federal Register** on January 13, 2026.⁴ The Commission has not received comments on the Proposed Rule Change.

Section 19(b)(2) of the Exchange Act⁵ provides that, within 45 days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up to 90 days as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding, or as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. The 45th day after publication of the Notice is February 27, 2026. The Commission is extending this 45-day time period.

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78s(a)(1)(B).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

³ See Notice of Filing *infra* note 4, at 90 FR 1368.

⁴ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104559 (Jan. 8, 2026), 91 FR 1368 (Jan. 13, 2026) (File No. SR–ICC–2025–014) (“Notice”).

⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).