



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20415

The Honorable Lane Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Evans:

We are responding to your inquiry of September 11, 2002, which asked whether or not additional waivers to Title 5 have been made concerning the Personnel Demonstration Project for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service and Agricultural Research Service) since the initial waivers were published in the Federal Register (FR). 55 FR 9062, dated March 9, 1990, was the initial notice and included waivers on the rule of three, the use of delegated examining units, the length of the probationary period, and recruitment incentives including bonuses and relocation expenses. Veterans' preference was not waived.

Since this initial notice, no new waivers have been required for the conduct of this demonstration project. However, two modifications to the original project exist. The first modification, found in 61 FR 9507 (dated March 8, 1996), changed a number of comparison group sites to experimental sites. The second modification, found in 61 FR 49178 (dated September 18, 1996), addressed demonstration project coverage to include term appointments. Copies of these citations are enclosed. The demonstration project was made permanent by Public Law 105-277 on October 21, 1998. A copy of this notice is also enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you this information. If you have further questions about this demonstration project, please call Ms. Nancy Randa of my staff on (202) 606-1575.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Coles James".

Kay Coles James
Director

Enclosures