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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ24

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the St. Louis, MO, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing a final rule that will abolish the St. Louis, MO, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. Printing and lithographic employees in the St. Louis wage area will now be paid from the regular St. Louis appropriated fund FWS wage area schedule. This change is necessary because there are no longer enough printing and lithographic employees in the wage area to conduct the local special wage survey successfully.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This regulation is effective on January 18, 2001.

Applicability Date: Agencies will place employees who are paid from the St. Louis special wage schedule on the St. Louis regular wage schedule on December 17, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chenty I. Carpenter at (202) 606-8359; by FAX at (202) 606-4264; or by email at cicarpen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 14, 2000, the Office of Personnel Management published an interim rule (65 FR 55431) to abolish the St. Louis, MO, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. The interim rule had a 30-day period for comment, during which we received no comments.

The Department of Defense (DOD) recommended that we abolish this

special wage schedule because it has become extremely difficult for DOD to release adequate numbers of employees to conduct the local special wage survey successfully. The number of printing and lithographic employees in the wage area has declined from about 225 employees in 1985 to about 17 employees currently. These employees work in various locations throughout the St. Louis wage area. Twelve of these employees work for the Defense Logistics Agency, four work for the Department of the Army, and one works for the National Guard Bureau. DOD has found it increasingly difficult to comply with the requirement that employees paid from the special printing schedule participate in the local special wage survey process. The decline in employment is expected to continue until there are no longer any printing and lithographic employees in the wage area.

Printing and lithographic employees will convert to the St. Louis FWS regular wage schedule on a grade-for-grade basis. Each employee's new rate of pay will be set at the step rate for the applicable grade of the regular wage schedule that equals the employee's existing rate of pay. If an employee's existing pay rate falls between two steps on the regular schedule, the new rate will be set at the higher of the two steps. If an employee's existing pay rate is higher than the highest rate for his or her grade on the regular schedule, the employee will, if otherwise eligible, be entitled to pay retention. The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, the national labor-management committee that advises OPM on FWS pay matters, reviewed and concurred by consensus with this change.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

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

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5343, the interim rule (65 FR 55431) amending 5 CFR part 532 published on September 14, 2000, is adopted as final with no changes.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

[FR Doc. 00-32284 Filed 12-18-00; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ23

Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Los Angeles, CA, Appropriated Fund Wage Area

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a final rule to remove Inyo County, CA, from the Los Angeles, CA, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area. The county, excluding the China Lake Naval Weapons Center portion, will be defined to the Las Vegas, NV, FWS wage area. This will affect FWS employees at Death Valley National Park by placing them on a higher wage schedule.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This regulation is effective on January 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chenty I. Carpenter by phone at (202) 606-2838, by FAX at (202) 606-4264, or by email at cicarpen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 17, 2000, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published a proposed rule (65 FR 50165) to move Inyo County, California, from the Los Angeles, CA, appropriated fund Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area to the Las Vegas, NV, FWS wage area. The proposed rule had a 30-day period for public comment, during which we received no comments.

OPM considers the following regulatory criteria under 5 CFR 532.211 when defining FWS wage area boundaries:

- (i) Distance, transportation facilities, and geographic features;
- (ii) Commuting patterns; and
- (iii) Similarities in overall population employment, and the kinds and sizes of private industrial establishments.

Inyo County is currently an area of application county in the Los Angeles wage area. Based on our analysis of the

regulatory criteria for defining appropriated fund FWS wage areas, we find that Inyo County, excluding the portion occupied by China Lake Naval Weapons Center, should be part of the Las Vegas wage area. The distance criterion is the major factor in our determination. The county is much closer to the Las Vegas survey area than to the Los Angeles survey area. Inyo County is approximately 429 km (267 miles) from Los Angeles and 194 km (120 miles) from Las Vegas. The county is approximately 203 km (126 miles) from Nellis Air Force Base, the Las Vegas wage area's host installation. We reviewed the other criteria, but they did not favor one wage area more than another. The Las Vegas, NV, FWS wage area will consist of two survey counties, Clark and Nye Counties, NV, and four area of application counties, Esmeralda and Lincoln Counties, NV, Mohave County, AZ, and Inyo County, CA.

China Lake Naval Weapons Center is located in Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties, CA. China Lake Naval Weapons Center will remain a part of the Los Angeles FWS wage area so that the installation can continue to be defined to a single wage area. The regulatory criteria we use to define FWS wage areas indicate that the main employment locations for FWS employees at China Lake are properly defined to the Los Angeles wage area.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the national labor-management committee that advises OPM on FWS pay matters, recommended these changes by consensus. Based on its review of the regulatory criteria for defining FWS wage areas, FPRAC recommended no other changes in the geographic definition of the Los Angeles FWS wage area.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

I certify that these regulations will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because they will 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. U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

Accordingly, the Office of Personnel Management is amending 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.

2. In appendix C to subpart B, the wage area listing for the State of California is amended by revising the listing for Los Angeles; and for the State of Nevada, by revising the listing for Las Vegas, to read as follows:

Appendix C to Subpart B of Part 532—Appropriated Fund Wage and Survey Areas

* * * * *

California

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Los Angeles

Survey Area

California:

Los Angeles

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

California:

Inyo (Includes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center portion only)

Kern (Includes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center, Edwards Air Force Base, and portions occupied by Federal activities at Boron (City) only)

Orange

Riverside (Includes the Joshua Tree National Monument portion only)

San Bernardino (All of San Bernardino County except that portion occupied by, and south and west of, the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests)

Ventura

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Nevada

Las Vegas

Survey Area

Nevada:

Clark

Nye

Area of Application. Survey area plus:

Nevada:

Esmeralda

Lincoln

Arizona:

Mohave

California:

Inyo (Excludes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center portion only)

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AJ22

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Philadelphia, PA, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing a final rule to abolish the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. Printing and lithographic employees in the Philadelphia wage area will now be paid from the regular Philadelphia appropriated fund FWS wage area schedule. This change is necessary because there are no longer enough printing and lithographic employees in the wage area to conduct the local special wage survey successfully.

DATES: Effective Date: This regulation is effective on January 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chenty I. Carpenter by phone at (202) 606-2838, by FAX at (202) 606-4264, or by email at cicarpen@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On August 17, 2000, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published an interim rule (65 FR 50127) to abolish the Philadelphia, PA, Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions. The interim rule had a 30-day period for public comment, during which we received no comments.

The Department of Defense (DOD) recommended that we abolish this special wage schedule because it has become extremely difficult for DOD to release adequate numbers of employees to conduct the local special wage survey successfully. The number of printing and lithographic employees in the wage area has declined from 117 employees in 1995 to about 5 employees currently. The decline in employees is expected to continue until there are no longer any printing and lithographic employees in the wage area. DOD found it increasingly difficult to comply with the requirement that employees paid from the special printing schedule participate in the local special wage survey process. The 1998 full-scale special wage survey required contacting 102 establishments in 5 counties in Pennsylvania and 3 counties in New Jersey.

Printing and lithographic employees converted to the Philadelphia FWS