

Securities and Exchange Commission

Secretary to the Director, Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations. Effective March 15, 2000.

Small Business Administration

Senior Advisor for Communications and Public Liaison to the Associate Administrator for Marketing and Customer Service. Effective March 9, 2000.

Press Officer and Senior Advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Public Communications. Effective March 27, 2000.

U.S. International Trade Commission

Staff Assistant to the Commissioner. Effective March 8, 2000.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954-1958 Comp., P.218

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

[FR Doc. 00-12685 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given that meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on—

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Thursday, June 22, 2000

The meetings will start at 10 a.m. and will be held in Room 5A06A, Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street NW, Washington, DC.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates under subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as amended, and from time to time advise the Office of Personnel Management.

This scheduled meeting will start in open session with both labor and management representatives attending. During the meeting either the labor members or the management members

may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of a meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee's Secretary.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Committee's Secretary, Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5559, 1900 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20415; (202) 606-1500.

Dated: May 10, 2000.

John F. Leyden,

Chairman, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 00-12689 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Science and Technology (S&T) Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Project, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center (ERDC)

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

ACTION: Notice of change to reduction-in-force (RIF) procedures to recognize performance based on the average of the last three annual performance scores in the most recent 4-year period as a criterion to establish retention registers.

SUMMARY: 5 U.S.C. 4703 authorizes OPM to conduct demonstration projects that experiment with new and different personnel management concepts to determine whether such changes in personnel policy or procedures would

result in improved Federal personnel management.

Public Law 103-337, October 5, 1994, permits the Department of Defense (DoD), with the approval of OPM, to carry out personnel demonstration projects at S&T Reinvention Laboratories. This notice identifies a revision to the ERDC plan where an average of three annual performance scores is used instead of a single performance score to determine an employee's retention standing in a reduction in force.

DATES: This revision to the ERDC demonstration project will be implemented May 22, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

ERDC: Dr. C.H. Pennington, U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center, ATTN: CEERD-ZT-E, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180-6199, phone 601-634-3549.

OPM: Ms. Joan M. Jorgenson, U. S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW Room 7458, Washington, DC 20415, phone 202-606-1315.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

OPM approved and published the final plan in the **Federal Register** for the following S&T Reinvention Laboratory Demonstration Project.

A. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES) final publication on Tuesday, March 3, 1998, Volume 63, Number 41, Part IV.

WES correction and re-publication on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, Volume 63, Number 57, Part V.

B. Publication of amendment to expand coverage of the WES project to include the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Cold Regions Research & Engineering Laboratory, and Topographic Engineering Center. Published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, October 16, 1998, Volume 63, Number 200, Part V.

Note: The WES demonstration project was renamed the ERDC demonstration project following consolidation of the Army Corps of Engineers' laboratories.

C. Publication of an amendment to include competitive examining and Distinguished Scholastic Achievement Appointment authorities as part of the ERDC plan. Published in the **Federal Register** on Thursday, March 11, 1999, Volume 64, Number 47, Part II.

This demonstration project involves simplified job classification, pay banding, a performance-based compensation system, employee development provisions, and modified RIF procedures.

2. Overview

The action to combine all Corps of Engineers laboratories into the ERDC and expand coverage of the WES Personnel Management Demonstration Project to the entire ERDC prompted a review of the provisions of the project to assure acceptance by all levels of management, employees, and bargaining units. The review revealed that the best interests of all involved would be better served by revising the manner in which performance is recognized in RIF procedures to allow for performance based on a longer period than that represented by a single performance score.

Dated: May 9, 2000.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

I. Executive Summary

The Department of the Army established the personnel management demonstration projects to be generally similar to the system in use at the Navy personnel demonstration project known as China Lake. The projects and this amendment are built upon the concepts of linking performance to pay for all covered positions; simplifying paperwork in the processing of classification and other personnel actions; emphasizing partnerships among management, employees, and unions; and delegating other authorities to line managers.

II. Introduction

The demonstration project at the ERDC attempts to provide managers with the authority, control and flexibility to achieve quality laboratories and quality products. These goals are met by employing the best candidates and ensuring the best employees are retained in the event of a reduction in force. The purpose of this amendment is to revise the procedures to recognize employee performance in establishing retention registers by basing the criterion on the average of the last three annual performance scores in the most recent 4-year period instead of the last single performance score. This considers employee performance over a longer period of time. Other basic provisions of the approved plan are unchanged.

III. Personnel System Changes

This project is built upon the concepts of linking performance to pay, simplifying paperwork in the processing of classification and other personnel actions, emphasizing partnerships among management, employees and

unions, and delegating certain authorities to line managers. Pay for performance is accomplished by assigning a numerical score to an employee's performance at the end of the annual rating cycle and using the score to determine the employee's pay increase. Currently, the score is also used to determine in part an employee's retention standing in the event of a reduction in force. For RIF purposes, this amendment proposes instead to recognize employee performance by averaging the last three performance scores rather than using only the last performance score.

The **Federal Register**, Volume 63, Number 57, dated March 25, 1998, Section III.H.2. (Retention), page 14593, first paragraph, first sentence, is amended to read as follows:

Retention registers will be established based on the following criteria listed in order of priority: Tenure status (Tenure I—career, Tenure II—career conditional, Tenure III—modified term); veterans' preference; the average of the last three annual employee performance scores in the most recent 4-year period; and service computation date.

The use of three performance scores recognizes that an employee's performance may vary from one year to the next because of unforeseen circumstances such as an illness, relocation, a change in workload, or reorganization. The amendment incorporates the recommendations of management, employees and unions, ensures the very best employees are retained in the event of a RIF, and continues to support the objectives of the ERDC personnel management demonstration project.

[FR Doc. 00-12688 Filed 5-19-00; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

Privacy Act of 1974, Systems of Records

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice of amendments to existing systems of records.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to publish notice of amendments to two Privacy Act systems of records. The amendments conform to a rule change published in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 2000 (65 FR 3857-3859), amending Postal Service regulations that govern the disclosure of information contained in PS Form 1093, Application for Post Office Box or Caller Service, and PS Form 1583, Application for Delivery of Mail Through Agent. Information collected by these forms is

covered by Privacy Act systems of records USPS 010.020, Collection and Delivery Records—Boxholder Records, and USPS 010.050, Collection and Delivery Records—Delivery of Mail Through Agents, respectively, for which changes are proposed by this notice.

DATES: Any interested party may submit written comments on the proposed addition and modification. This proposal will become effective without further notice on June 21, 2000, unless comments received on or before that date result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this proposal should be mailed or delivered to Administration and FOIA, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, RM 8141, Washington, DC 20260-5202. Copies of all written comments will be available at the above address for public inspection and photocopying between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Sheriff, (202) 268-2608.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Information about customers who use post office box service is maintained within Privacy Act system of records USPS 010.020, Collection and Delivery Records—Boxholder Records. In the past, the Postal Service has disclosed to the general public, upon request, the name, address, and telephone number of the holder of a post office box being used for the purpose of doing or soliciting business with the public. To provide a greater degree of privacy and security to the growing number of small business owners who operate out of their homes, that provision has been repealed. As a result, routine use No. 1 is deleted. The rule change referenced above also repeals a provision allowing disclosure of boxholder information in response to oral requests from law enforcement agencies made through the Postal Inspection Service, in the course of a criminal investigation, necessitating the deletion of routine use No. 4. The remaining routine use Nos. 2, 3, and 5 are redesignated as routine uses 1 through 3, respectively, and the "Note" preceding them is amended to delete the explanation as to when copies of PS Form 1093 may be provided (now incorporated into the routine use) and to succeed the routine uses as an exception. Under the exception, disclosure is not authorized by the routine uses if the individual boxholder has filed a protective order with the postmaster, unless the party seeking the information submits an order of a court of competent jurisdiction requiring disclosure.