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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-A104

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Orlando, Florida, Appropriated Fund Wage Area

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing an interim rule to remove the requirement that a full-scale wage survey be conducted in the Orlando, Florida, Federal Wage System appropriated fund wage area in September 1997.

DATES: This interim rule is effective on September 30, 1997. Comments must be received on or before November 3, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Donald J. Winstead, Assistant Director for Compensation Policy, Human Resources Systems Service, Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415, or FAX: (202) 606-0824.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark A. Allen, (202) 606-2848.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management is issuing the first of two interim rules to abolish the Orlando, Florida, appropriated fund wage area. The Orlando wage area is currently composed of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties in Florida. Because of the pending closure of the Orlando Naval Training Station, the Department of Defense, the lead agency for the Orlando wage area, is unable to conduct the wage survey that is scheduled to begin in the Orlando wage area in September 1997. This interim rule removes the requirement that a full-scale wage survey be

conducted in the Orlando wage area in September 1997. The appropriate disposition of the four counties of the Orlando wage area is currently under consideration by the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee. Once the Committee has completed its discussions, an additional interim rule will be published to move those four counties to another wage area.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee reviewed this recommendation and by consensus recommended approval.

Waiver of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Delayed Effective Date

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B), I find that good cause exists for waiving the general notice of proposed rulemaking. Also, pursuant to section 553(d)(3) of title 5, United States Code, I find that good cause exists for making this rule effective in less than 30 days. The notice is being waived and the regulation is being made effective in less than 30 days so that advance preparations otherwise required for the 1997 Orlando wage area survey may be canceled.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

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

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Acting Director.

Accordingly, OPM 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.

Appendix A to Subpart B of Part 532— [Amended]

2. Appendix A to subpart B is amended by removing the entry for

Orlando in the listing for the State of Florida.

[FR Doc. 97-26217 Filed 10-2-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

7 CFR Part 0

Employee Responsibilities and Conduct

AGENCY: Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (Department) is repealing its internal standards of conduct regulations as part of the National Performance Review (NPR) program to eliminate unnecessary regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: These regulations are effective October 3, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David L. Spradlin, Program Manager for Employee Relations, Office of Human Resources Management, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 18-W—Stop 9601, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9601, telephone (202) 720-3327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Removal of 7 CFR Part 0 promotes the goal of the NPR to reduce the number of Federal regulations. Also, the Department employee responsibilities and conduct regulations largely have been superseded by the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) executive branch financial disclosure regulations at 5 CFR Part 2634, "Executive Branch Financial Disclosure, Qualified Trusts, and Certificates of Divestiture," and by the executive branch-wide standards at 5 CFR Part 2635, "Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch." Therefore, the Department is repealing all of existing 7 CFR Part 0.

II. Matters of Regulatory Procedure

Administrative Procedure Act

The Department has found that good cause exists under 5 U.S.C. 553 for waiving, as unnecessary and contrary to public interest, the general notice of proposed rulemaking and the 30-day delay in effectiveness as to this final rule. This rulemaking is related to Department personnel.