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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-A111

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Kansas City, MO, Special Wage Schedule for Printing Positions

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is adopting as final an interim rule to abolish the Federal Wage System (FWS) special wage schedule for printing positions in the Kansas City, Missouri, wage area. Printing and lithographic employees in the Kansas City wage area will now be paid rates from the regular Kansas City wage schedule. This change is being made because of decreased employment in printing occupations in the Kansas City FWS wage area.

DATES: This regulation is effective on July 22, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Hopkins at (202) 606-2848, or send an email message to jdhopkin@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 24, 1997, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published an interim regulation (62 FR 67258) abolishing the Kansas City special printing schedule. The interim regulation had a 30-day period for public comment, during which OPM received no comments. The interim rule is therefore being made final.

Printing and lithographic employees were converted to the regular schedule for the Kansas City wage area on a grade-for-grade basis, effective January 4, 1998. The conversion of employees stipulated that an employee's new rate of pay would be set at the rate for the

step of the applicable grade of the regular schedule that equaled the employee's existing scheduled rate of pay. When the existing rate fell between two steps on the regular schedule, the employee's new rate was to be set at the rate for the higher of those two steps. In addition, pay retention provisions applied for the few employees who may not have received increases upon conversion to the regular wage schedule.

This action was taken after the Department of Defense (DOD) recommended to OPM that the Kansas City, MO, special wage schedule for printing positions be abolished and that the regular Kansas City wage schedule apply to printing employees in the Kansas City wage area. The recommendation was based on the fact that the number of employees paid from the special schedule has declined in recent years from a total of about 70 employees in 1985 to a total of about 30 employees. With the reduced number of employees, DOD found it increasingly difficult to comply with the requirement that workers paid from the special printing schedule participate in the local wage survey process. A full-scale special wage survey in the Kansas City wage area required a substantial work effort in contacting about 70 printing establishments spread over 8 counties and required the participation of about 10 percent of the employees who were paid from the special printing schedule.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC), the statutory national-level labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters concerning the pay of FWS employees, reviewed and concurred by consensus with this change.

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.

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5343, the interim rule amending 5 CFR part 532 published on December

24, 1997 (63 FR 67258), is adopted as final without any changes.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-15802 Filed 6-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

5 CFR Part 532

RIN 3206-AH88

Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Lubbock, Texas, Nonappropriated Fund Wage Area

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management is adopting as final an interim rule to abolish the Lubbock, Texas, nonappropriated fund Federal Wage System wage area and establish a new Curry County, New Mexico, wage area. This change is being made because of the closure of the Lubbock wage area's host installation, Reese Air Force Base. This closure left the lead agency, the Department of Defense, without an installation in the survey area capable of hosting annual local wage surveys.

DATES: This final regulation is effective on July 22, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Hopkins, (202) 606-2848, FAX: (202) 606-0824, or email to jdhopkin@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 29, 1997, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published an interim rule (62 FR 28978) to abolish the Lubbock, Texas, nonappropriated fund (NAF) Federal Wage System (FWS) wage area and establish a new Curry County, New Mexico, NAF FWS wage area. The Lubbock wage area consisted of one survey county, Lubbock, TX, and two areas of application counties, Curry, NM, and Potter, TX. The closure of the Lubbock wage area's host activity, Reese Air Force Base, left the Department of Defense (DOD), the lead agency for the Lubbock wage area, without an installation in the survey area capable of hosting local annual wage surveys.

Even though the host installation closed, the Lubbock wage area

continued to have NAF FWS employment. Cannon Air Force Base, located in Curry County, NM, has more than the minimum required number of NAF FWS employees and has the capability to host annual local wage surveys. Also, Curry County has more than the required minimum number of private enterprise employees in establishments within survey specifications. The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, the national labor-management committee responsible for advising OPM on matters concerning the pay of FWS employees, recommended by consensus that we abolish the Lubbock, TX, NAF wage area and establish a new Curry, NM, NAF wage area. The new wage area consists of one survey county, Curry County, NM, and two area of application counties, Lubbock and Potter, TX.

Full-scale wage surveys were ordered in the Curry, NM, NAF wage area in June of odd-numbered fiscal years. The first full-scale wage survey began in June 1997. The interim rule provided a 30-day public comment period, during which OPM did not receive any comments. The interim rule is being adopted as final with no changes.

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.

Accordingly, under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5343, the interim rule amending 5 CFR part 532 published on May 29, 1997 (62 FR 28978), is adopted as final with no changes.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-15804 Filed 6-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

7 CFR Part 1710

RIN 0572-AB46

General and Pre-Loan Policies and Procedures Common to Insured and Guaranteed Electric Loans

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is amending its regulations to: revise the method of determining loan fund eligibility for "ordinary replacements" and authorize the use of guaranteed financing for "minor projects".

DATES: This rule will become effective August 6, 1999 unless we receive written adverse comments or written notice of intent to submit adverse comments on or before July 22, 1999. If we receive such comments or notice, we will publish a timely withdrawal of the Direct Final Rule in the **Federal Register** stating that the rule will not become effective. We will address the comments received and publish a final rule. A second public comment period will not be held. Parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

ADDRESSES: Submit adverse comments or notice of intent to submit adverse comments to F. Lamont Heppe, Jr., Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1522, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-9550. RUS requires a signed original and three copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.4). Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(b)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alex M. Cockey, Jr., Deputy Assistant Administrator, Electric Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stop 1560, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1560. Telephone: (202) 720-9547. FAX (202) 690-0717. E-mail: acockey@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This rule has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. RUS has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards provided in section 3 of the Executive Order. In addition, all state and local laws and regulations that are in conflict with this rule will be preempted. No retroactive effect will be given to this rule and in

accordance with § 212(e) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 USC § 6912(e)) administrative appeal procedures, if any, must be exhausted before an action against the Department or its agencies may be initiated.

Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

The Administrator of RUS has determined that a rule relating to RUS electric loan program is not a rule as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and, therefore, the Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this rule. RUS borrowers, as a result of obtaining federal financing, receive economic benefits that exceed any direct economic costs associated with complying with RUS regulations and requirements.

Information Collection and Recordkeeping Requirements

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the reporting and recordkeeping requirements contained in 7 CFR Part 1710 under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) and assigned control number 0572-0032. This rule contains no additional information collection or recordkeeping requirements.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The program described by this rule is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.850, Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees. This catalog is available on a subscription basis from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-9325, telephone number (202) 512-1800.

Executive Order 12372

This rule is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Consultation, which may require consultation with State and local officials. A Notice of Final Rule entitled "Department Programs and Activities Excluded from Executive Order 12372", (50 FR 47034), exempted RUS loans and loan guarantees from coverage under this order.

Unfunded Mandates

This rule contains no Federal Mandates (under the regulatory provision of Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995) for State, local, and tribal governments or the private sector. Thus, this rule is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.