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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Members of the public can listen to these discussions. These meetings are available to the public through the above call in numbers. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are also entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Regional Programs Unit, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 2120, Chicago, IL 60604. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353-8324, or emailed to Corrine Sanders at [csanders@usccr.gov](mailto:csanders@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (312) 353-8311.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meeting will be available via [www.facadatabase.gov](http://www.facadatabase.gov) under the Commission on Civil Rights, Arkansas Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Unit at the above email or street address.

#### Agenda

Welcome and Roll Call  
Civil Rights in Arkansas: Mass Incarceration  
Future Plans and Actions  
Public Comment  
Adjournment

Dated: October 25, 2018.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

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**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket No.: 180928902-8902-01]

### Commerce Alternative Personnel System

**AGENCY:** Office of Administration, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the expansion of employee coverage under the Commerce Alternative Personnel System (CAPS), formerly the Department of Commerce Personnel Management Demonstration Project, published in the **Federal Register** on December 24, 1997. This coverage is extended to include employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR) located in the Earth Systems Research Laboratory, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, and the Pacific Marine Environmental Research Laboratory. This notice also serves to modify the plan to add the Investigative Analysis Series, 1805 to the Administrative (ZA) career path.

**DATES:** The amended Commerce Alternative Personnel System is effective October 31, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Department of Commerce—Sandra Thompson, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 51020, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-0056 or Valerie Smith at (202) 482-0272.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### 1. Background

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved the Department of Commerce (DoC) demonstration project for an alternative personnel management system, and published the final plan in the **Federal Register** on Wednesday, December 24, 1997 (62 FR 67434). The demonstration project was designed to simplify current classification systems for greater flexibility in classifying work and paying employees; establish a performance management and rewards system for improving individual and organizational performance; and improve recruiting and examining to attract highly-qualified candidates. The

purpose of the project was to strengthen the contribution of human resources management and test whether the same innovations conducted under the National Institute of Standards and Technology alternative personnel management system would produce similarly successful results in other DoC environments. The project was implemented on March 29, 1998. The project plan has been modified twelve times to clarify certain DoC Demonstration Project authorities, and to extend and expand the project: 64 FR 52810 (September 30, 1999); 68 FR 47948 (August 12, 2003); 68 FR 54505 (September 17, 2003); 70 FR 38732 (July 5, 2005); 71 FR 25615 (May 1, 2006); 71 FR 50950 (August 28, 2006); 74 FR 22728 (May 14, 2009); 80 FR 25 (January 2, 2015); 81 FR 20322 (April 7, 2016); 81 FR 40653 (June 22, 2016); 81 FR 54787 (August 17, 2016); and 82 FR 1688 (January 6, 2017). With the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110-161, on December 26, 2007, the project was made permanent (extended indefinitely) and renamed the Commerce Alternative Personnel System (CAPS).

CAPS provides for modifications to be made as experience is gained, results are analyzed, and conclusions are reached on how the system is working. This notice announces that the DoC expands CAPS to include additional bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employees in the OAR, located in the Earth Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL), the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL), and the Pacific Marine Environmental Research Laboratory (PMEL); and adds the Investigative Analysis Series, 1805 to the Administrative (ZA) career path.

The DoC will follow the CAPS plan as published in the **Federal Register** on December 24, 1997, and subsequent modifications as listed in the Background Section of this notice.

**Kevin E. Mahoney,**

*Director for Human Resources Management and Chief Human Capital Officer.*

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#### I. Executive Summary

CAPS is designed to (1) improve hiring and allow DoC to compete more effectively for high-quality candidates through direct hiring, selective use of higher entry salaries, and selective use of recruitment incentives; (2) motivate and retain staff through higher pay potential, pay-for-performance, more

responsive personnel systems, and selective use of retention incentives; (3) strengthen the manager's role in personnel management through delegation of personnel authorities; and (4) increase the efficiency of personnel systems through the installation of a simpler and more flexible classification system based on pay banding through reduction of guidelines, steps, and paperwork in classification, hiring, and other personnel systems, and through automation.

The current participating organizations include 1 office of the Deputy Secretary in the Office of the Secretary, 6 offices of the Chief Financial Officer/Assistant Secretary for Administration in the Office of the Secretary; the Bureau of Economic Analysis; 2 units of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA): the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and the First Responder Network Authority (an independent authority within NTIA); and 12 units of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, National Weather Service—Space Environment Center, National Ocean Service, Program Planning and Integration Office, Office of the Under Secretary, Marine and Aviation Operations, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Workforce Management Office, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

This amendment modifies the December 24, 1997, **Federal Register** notice. Specifically, it expands DoC CAPS to include additional OAR bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit employees located in the ESRL, GLERL, and the PMEL; and adds the Investigative Analysis Series, 1805 to the Administrative (ZA) career path

## II. Basis for CAPS Expansion

### A. Purpose

CAPS is designed to provide supervisors/managers at the lowest organizational level the authority, control, and flexibility to recruit, retain, develop, recognize, and motivate its workforce, while ensuring adequate accountability and oversight.

OAR is the primary research and development organization within NOAA. OAR research results allow decision makers to make effective judgements in order to prevent the loss of human life and conserve and manage natural resources while maintaining a strong economy. OAR conducts research

programs in coastal, marine, atmospheric, and space sciences through its own laboratories and offices, as well as through networks of university-based programs. The work consists of research, modeling, and environmental observations relating to weather and air quality, climate, and ocean and coastal resources. Since the inception of the demonstration project in 1997, and subsequent modification/expansion notices, units of OAR have participated in CAPS, with the exception of the GLERL, and the PMEL. In October 2005, the ESRL was formed, which absorbed the following former demonstration project covered units: Aeronomy Laboratory, Air Resources Laboratory—Surface Radiation Research Branch, Climate Diagnostics Center, Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory, Environmental Technology Laboratory, and the Forecast Systems Laboratory. Subsequent reorganizations have occurred within OAR, resulting in the alignment of additional bargaining and non-bargaining unit General Schedule (GS) employees under ESRL. With the majority of ESRL employees being covered by an alternative personnel management system, a determination was made to have one uniform pay system and to convert the remaining GS ESRL workforce under CAPS.

The expansion of CAPS coverage to include the remaining OAR laboratories and the bargaining unit and non-bargaining unit GS employees of ESRL will allow OAR to continue to benefit from the flexibilities provided by CAPS and should improve the organization's ability to recruit and retain a high-quality workforce by offering one uniform pay system throughout OAR.

DoC's CAPS allows for modifications of procedures if no new waiver from law or regulation is added. Given that this expansion and modification is in accordance with existing law and regulation and CAPS is a permanent alternative personnel system, the DoC is authorized to make the changes described in this notice.

### B. Participating Employees

Employee notification of this expansion will be accomplished by providing a full set of briefings to employees and managers and providing them electronic access to all CAPS policies and procedures, including the twelve previous **Federal Register** Notices. A copy of this **Federal Register** notice will also be accessible electronically upon approval. Subsequent supervisor training and informational briefings for all employees will be accomplished prior

to the implementation date of the expansion.

### C. Labor Participation

Labor organizations were notified about the CAPS expansion pertaining to their bargaining unit membership. Bargaining-unit employees are covered by AFGE Local 2186, Boulder, Colorado, and AFGE Local 3908, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

## III. Changes to the Project Plan

The CAPS at DoC, published in the **Federal Register** on December 24, 1997 (62 FR 67434), is amended as follows:

1. The following organization will be added to the project plan, Section II D—Participating Organizations

Within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, (OAR),

Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL)

Pacific Marine Environmental Research Laboratory (PMEL)

Additional employees in the following:

Earth Science Research Laboratory (ESRL)

2. The following bargaining units are added to the project plan, Section II F—Labor Participation Table 4—Bargaining Unit Coverage.

ESRL . . . Boulder, CO AFGE Local 2186

GLERL . . . Ann Arbor, MI AFGE Local 3908

3. The following series is added to the project plan, Section II E. Participating Employees—Table 2.—Occupational Series by Career Path

Administrative (ZA) career path, 1805, Investigative Analysis

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 2065]

**Production Authority Not Approved; PBR, Inc. d/b/a SKAPS Industries; Foreign-Trade Zone 26; (Non-Woven Geotextiles); Athens, Georgia**

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Act provides for “. . . the establishment . . . of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United